

*Comptosia typis  
americana*

58v 92.91.1 (4)

Comptosithlypis americana

1889

April

30<sup>12</sup> - 1889. 25<sup>1</sup> 1891 30<sup>3</sup> (Faxon) 1893

May

1<sup>2</sup> (Faxon) - 10<sup>25</sup> - 17<sup>28</sup> - 29<sup>28</sup> - 1889. 1<sup>28</sup> - 7<sup>1</sup> - 9<sup>1</sup> - 13<sup>1</sup> - 15<sup>1</sup> - 16<sup>1</sup> - 17<sup>1</sup> - 26<sup>1</sup> - 30<sup>1</sup> - 31<sup>1</sup> 1890

June

16<sup>1</sup> 1889. 2<sup>1</sup> (F.) - 10<sup>1</sup> - 25<sup>1</sup> (Wadsworth) - 26<sup>13</sup> - 23<sup>1</sup> (H. Faxon) - 1890

"

8<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 11<sup>1</sup> 1894

July

1<sup>1</sup> (Wadsworth) - 6<sup>1</sup> - 19<sup>1</sup> - 20<sup>1</sup> - 21<sup>1</sup> 1890. 14<sup>1</sup> - Pine Top - the Cliff - Concord 1892

Aug.

22<sup>1</sup> (Wadsworth) - 28<sup>1</sup> (Wadsworth) Concord 1892

Sept

7<sup>1</sup> (Wadsworth) Concord 1892, 18<sup>1</sup> - Faxon 1891, 22<sup>1</sup> - Faxon 1897

"

Oct.

7<sup>1</sup> 1896

May

12<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> Concord 11<sup>1</sup> W.D. 1899

May

2<sup>1</sup> (F.) - 10<sup>1</sup> - 11<sup>1</sup> - 8<sup>1</sup> - 9<sup>1</sup> - 10<sup>1</sup> - 11<sup>1</sup> - 12<sup>1</sup> - 13<sup>1</sup> (F.) - 14<sup>1</sup> - 23<sup>1</sup> 1891

"

3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892

"

14<sup>1</sup> 1893 9<sup>1</sup> 1897

"

8<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> (F.) - 13<sup>1</sup> - 14<sup>1</sup> - 16<sup>1</sup> - 19<sup>1</sup> - 26<sup>1</sup> (Davis H.) 1894

"

1895 5<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 1896 11<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>1</sup> Concord 1898

*Comptosithlypis americana*

*Parula americana*

1889 Mass.

May 10 Cambridge. - Two ♂♂, both in full song, in company with  
Crows (Ministitta) in the large white willows on  
Dr. Hymen's place.

Migrants  
feeding in white  
willows.

" 29 Watertown. - As no Parulas have been reported for nearly two  
weeks I was much surprised to find two males in  
full song this morning. One was in the oak woods behind  
the Catholic Cemetery, the other in oak & chestnut woods  
near the Arsenal. I do not think it possible that they  
can have been settled birds.

Still migrating

June 14 Dedham - Dr. W. Faxon heard five different ♂♂ singing to-day Distribution  
in Purgatory Swamp.

" 16 Weymouth. - One singing at sunset in white pine woods. Faxon  
heard several in these woods on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

July 14 Beverly Farms. Three ♂♂ heard singing by H. C. Purdie in  
mixed white pine & hemlock woods within 1/4  
mile of the seashore.

Distribution

1898

Apr. 27 Concord. Noted two arrivals to-day. A Parula Warbler  
sang for half an hour or more near the cabin this forenoon.  
[J. J. J.]

*Comptosia americana ulmæ.*

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 20<sup>1</sup> (one mile N.E. from Brunswick) 27<sup>1</sup> (Post cow at Brunswick).

July 1<sup>1</sup> (Post cow at Brunswick) 7<sup>1</sup> (Appharachet) 10<sup>1</sup> (do) 14<sup>1</sup> (Covey's Point).

Sedgwick. July 15<sup>1</sup>.



Comptosia americana.

Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.

1898. Near "Foster's Pond" in the southern part of the town  
June 17. is a small swamp where the Parula Warblers are abundant. I  
found one nest (4 eggs) June 10, constructed of the usual  
moss which grows abundantly there.

Extract from letter of Howard I. Ford.

Dwight. Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Compsothlypis americana*. PARULA WARBLER.—Infrequently observed  
and generally in the upper branches of hard-wood forest.

Auk X, Jan. 1893. p.18

Notes on the birds of Cape Breton Island  
by Charles W. Townsend, M. D.  
Auk, XXI, 1, Apr., 1906, p. 174

I also failed to find *Compsothlypis americana usneæ* and *Melospiza lincolni*, both recorded at Cape Breton by Mr. Wm. Brewster<sup>1</sup> in his 'Notes on the Birds observed during a Summer Cruise in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.'

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXII, 1883, p. 364.

54,  
Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,  
Nipissing District, Ontario.  
by Frederick C. Hubel, Auk XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 57

54. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*. PARULA WARBLER.—Three  
recorded, two August 5 and one August 11.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Birds.  
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 83.

244. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.—Abundant migrant May 5 to 29, and September 2 to 29; latest spring record June 3, 1897; latest fall record October 14, 1906.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. O.

19. *Parula americana*, (Blue Yellow-backed Warbler). This species was commonly observed in both spring and summer, being more conspicuous from their habit of keeping in small flocks, even in the breeding season. In a small spruce grove, which contained many old moss covered trees, on Kennedy Smith's farm in Eustis, I found several nests of this Warbler. They were the usual structures, of *usnea* so well known wherever this species breeds, being on the whole more

round than those observed in Massachusetts and more compact in structure. The nests were in every instance built entirely by the birds, and pendant from some branch entirely destitute of other moss. Such is not always the case in southern New England, the birds taking possession of some natural branch of the hanging moss, which, with but a little effort, they transform into an apology for a nest, scarcely worthy of the name when compared with those from the Maine forests.

O. & O. XI. Sep. 1886. p. 129

Summer Residents on Southwest  
Coast of Maine, T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

648. Parula Warbler. Common at  
Boothbay.

O. and O. 15, Nov. 1890. p. 162

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

58. *Compsothlypis americana*. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—  
Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 152

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.  
July 12-Sept. 4, 1888. F.H. Allen

*Compsothlypis americana*.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds Obsd. near Holderness, N.H.  
June 4-12, '86, and 4-11, '88. W. Faxon

47. *Compsothlypis americana*. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—  
Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 150

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Compsothlypis americana*.

1894.

	wt.	W.	Length	Ext.	Al.	Tail	Cul.	Stom.
June 16	16 $\frac{3}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	19 $\frac{1}{8}$	2.0 $\frac{1}{8}$	24 $\frac{1}{8}$	2.5 $\frac{1}{8}$	27 $\frac{1}{8}$	
Woodstock R.								
" 29	29 $\frac{2}{8}$							

Generally distributed throughout  
the primitive forests at the head  
of the valley and on the mountain  
sides up to about 2500 ft. but  
unknown at all seasons.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

*Compsothlypis americana*

1895.

May

29  $\frac{2}{8}$ , 30  $\frac{2}{8}$

June 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  Mt. 2500 ft. 3  $\frac{1}{8}$  6  $\frac{1}{8}$

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

58. *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*. PARULA WARBLER. — Quite common, inhabiting the lower slopes of the mountain to about 2500 feet altitude.

by Arthur H. Howell.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 848.

Princeton & N.J. Rutland, Mass. June 18, 1886.  
*Parula americana*. *Blue 21, 1886. Rut. 1*  
 Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.  
*Parula am.* 12. 13. 15. 16. 17. 18.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 12. 16. 17. 23.  
 June 7. 16.

\* singing  
*Parula americana*.  
 Mass. (Winchendon)

1887

June 25. 26. (Young on wing June 25)

*Parula americana*.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
 at Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

60. *Compsothlypis americana*.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
 F. W. Andros.

*Compsothlypis americana* (Linn.), *Parula*  
 Warbler. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

1888 Blue Yellow-backed Warbler S. W. Denton.  
 May 9. Willie Denton shot one today

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
 Co. Mass. June 28-July 18. W. Faxon

51. *Compsothlypis americana*. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—  
 Very rare. I identified only one specimen, high up on the wall of the  
 Hopper, about 2000 feet above the sea-level.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 103

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
 Co., Mass. June 17-23, '88. W. Faxon

56. *Compsothlypis americana*. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—  
 Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 45

*Compsothlypis americana*

1893- Fairbairn, Mass.

July 22. 1. Fairbairn 23. 1. do.

Stoughton, Mass.

*Compsothlypis americana* unsex. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER. Saw  
 one in Stoughton on April 25, 1908, the throat of which lacked the cross-  
 band.

Auk 26, Apr-1908 p. 192

Still, of the true royal family here, is Parula. She breeds, as our migration clerts teach us to say, "abundantly." And why shouldn't she, our little queen of these glades, when she need fear no regicide? She does not have the arch enemy of our other Warblers to contend with. In all the nests of this species I ever saw I have found but one Cowbird's egg, and the nest containing the egg was deserted. No arboreal builder carries less material to her nest. The skeleton frame to her house is already raised, and she has only to fashion her window and lay her floor. When Dr. Brewer first wrote me for nests and eggs of the Parula Warbler, and alluded to sets of six from Taunton, I thought such sets were freaks or impositions. So later, when I sent Mr. J. Parker Norris a set of seven I believed it would long stand the largest recorded set. But last season the first nest I found had five eggs, the next not twenty feet distant had seven, and the last set taken consisted of *eight*, all in swamp-huckleberry bushes.

The hornbeams and scrub-oaks hold the bulk of the nests, but those in the draped underbrush are easier found and got at. Yet even in both sites the nests are conspicuous to the trained eye. Those which escape observation are placed close to the trunk of the trees, harmonize, and present no outline. Six successive seasons is the longest I have known a Blue Yellow-back to haunt one spot, and I think that is about the limit of the breeding activity. *J. A. H. Hornbe, Conn.*

The Birds  
of Long  
Point:

Q. & Q. XVI.

Apr. 1891.

p. 59-60.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

7<sup>4</sup> 8<sup>4</sup> 9<sup>10</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> (May)  
 using fresh  
 13<sup>3</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> nest with  
 5 eggs  
 } 5 eggs broods

Fresh, abundant wherever *Ulmus*  
 abounds. At least a dozen pairs were  
 feeding in a Marsh island near Saybrook  
 where there were 4 bushes in a little group  
 with *Phragmites* that is with *Ulmus*. Several pairs  
 occupied a rocky knoll in a pasture where  
 some old ash bushes were clothed with the  
*Ulmus* birds perched in pairs, kinds  
 & notes, some new, on a little solitary cedar  
 in top of a hill, & a single case, evidently the parent  
 of *Ulmus* was the sole, <sup>unmistakable</sup> indication.  
 The kind, number or location of the trees  
 mattering not at all.  
 The 7 nests were varied in kind, from 5 to  
 30 ft all were located in *Phragmites*, or *Phragmites*  
 & those of the Orchard Birds being particularly  
 usually, just at the top & front of nest in  
 the *Ulmus* which <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ occurred in  
 the *Ulmus* of *Phragmites* etc. To allow the  
 nests to be placed within them as is  
 the rule in Northern N. B.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

23. *Parula americana* (Linn.) Bonap. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—Tolerably common summer resident.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct. 1881, p. 227

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 5, *Compsothlypis americana*, (648). *Parula*  
Warbler.

O. & O. XI, July. 1886. p. 103



Representatives among the *Sylvicolidae*, I have seen in limited numbers for so large a family, <sup>one</sup> ~~the~~ example being *P. Americana*, a beautifully marked specimen among the collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1878, p. 21

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

21. *Parula americana*.

"*First plumage*: male. Remiges, rectrices, etc., as in the adult. Pileum, nape, rump, and upper tail-coverts dull gray, tinged with olive anteriorly and with blue posteriorly, the back with more or less of an indistinct patch of olive-green; throat and eyelids grayish-white, abdomen, anal region, and crissum pure white; jugulum and sides of breast pale ash-gray. From two specimens obtained at Mt. Carmel, Ill., July 17, 1871, Nos. 1457 and 1563, my collection. Both of these show a large patch of bright gamboge-yellow on the breast, these feathers denoting the commencement of the adult plumage. One of them also has the chin and an indistinct supraloral line tinged with yellow."—R. R.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 22.

Female Singing.

1884  
April 1

Charleston, South Carolina

While shooting this morning my attention was attracted by a Warbler's song which although resembling that of *Parula* am was still unlike anything I had heard before. It had a wherry quality recalling that of *Hel. prairie*. I soon spied the bird in a small live-oak just leafing out & watched him for several minutes, making absolutely sure that he was the singer and that there was no other bird near. I stood within fifteen feet of him.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

*Compothlypis americana* (L.) Cab.\* BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.

A constant songster on its spring migration, but ordinarily silent in the fall, unless individuals sometimes cause exceptions to the rule. I feel quite positive of having heard a faint song on September 18, 1881, from one of a small party of these birds; but it was not repeated, and I could not verify my conviction. A little farther north, however, the species does sing on its return migration; for I am told by Dr. E. A. Mearns that, near West Point, he has sometimes found it in full song in the autumn.

The Blue Yellow-backed Warbler has two different songs. In one the notes coalesce into a fine insect-like trill; in the other four similar notes are followed by four others, weaker and more quickly given.

This species arrives in the fall in full plumage, and somewhat fat. The color of its fat is a very pale sulphury, in contrast to that of other species, as the Nashville Warbler or the Redstart, in which the fat is more opaque and of an orange or reddish color. \* Cf. Stejneger, Auk, Vol. I, pp. 169, 170. Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 212.

Calamazoo County, Mich.  
Dr. Morris Gibbs.

*Parula americana* (Linn.) Bp. Blue Warbler.—Arrives from April 22 I have never taken a specimen in county and do not think that the s to breed. It may prove to be a resident, as it is not rare during hundred miles north. The song of the Yellow-back is very pleasing although simple.

The division of the note is something like this,

with our imagination stretched to the comprehension of supposed sounds *Zuec zuec zuec doe doe doe*. The song is frequently uttered, both from the tops of the tallest trees and the low bushes, the bird seemingly having no preference as to either elevated or a nearer terrestrial mode of travel. In its late Summer and Fall migration the species is not so tuneful, and the little fellows can only be detected by their faint chirping calls, or by watching them as they flit silently from tree to tree.



Mass. (Hewitt Co.)

*Parula americana*

1886

Breeding at No. Rutland.

June 18

On one farm in No. Rutland I heard three males singing during a tramp of less than half a mile. All were in rather swamp second-growth maple and white-bump oak woods. There was a little *usnea* hanging the dead branches but I could find no hanging skins.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Scirpus palustris americana*

In an extensive spruce and larch swamp in Ashburnham near the western base of Mt Watatic we found ~~about~~ five males of this species. They doubtless had mates and nests in this swamp. Many of these trees were hung rather thickly with *usnea* moss. Neither moss nor Warbler was noticed elsewhere in the surrounding region.

LOGIST

[Vol. 13-No. 3

### An Unusual Nest of the Parula Warbler.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

In the interesting article on "The Parula Warbler, Its Nest and Eggs," in January O. & O., "J. M. W." says: "I do not think this warbler ever attached the upper part of the nest to limb or twig like the orioles and vireos." It is natural that this keen observer and charming writer should feel sure of his ground in dealing with a species which he knows so well, but, nevertheless, he is mistaken in the opinion just quoted.

I have a nest of the Parula Warbler taken with a set of three eggs at Stoneham, Mass., June 24, 1887, which in shape and general style of construction closely resembles a wide-mouthed nest of the Baltimore Oriole, excepting, of course, that it is much smaller. There is no hole in the side, and the bird entered at the top as this Oriole does. The upper edges and sides were securely fastened to the fine terminal twigs of the drooping bough of a vigorous live hemlock, where the nest was prettily concealed among its foliage, and hung suspended precisely as the Oriole's hammock hangs in the drooping spray of an elm.

This nest is composed entirely of *usnea*,

loosely woven or perhaps merely felted together. It had a scanty lining of fine grasses and pine needles, which the birds must have been at some pains to collect, for the closest scrutiny, on the part of a friend and myself, of all the trees in the surrounding grove, failed to show more than a few scattered tufts, the largest not larger than an English walnut.

This fact doubtless explains the unusual character of the nest just described. Its builders having chosen to ignore one of the most firmly grounded traditions of their race, by settling in a spot where *usnea* was too scanty to be used in the ordinary way, were obliged to depart still further from established precedent and construct a finished nest. As it is, the case affords an interesting example of evolution in nest building. Another step in the same direction would give us a nest composed of twine, bark, or what not. Who can say that a Parula will not yet build such a house?

In Northern New England, where the *usnea* is found in almost every tree, the Parula Warbler, as far as I have observed, never breeds in colonies such as "J. M. W." describes, but, on the contrary, is quite as evenly and generally distributed as any of the other warblers. The same is true of the South, where (in South Carolina and Georgia), I have found it breeding in great abundance, placing its nest in the long streamers of *Tillandsia* that drape the forest trees.

O. & O., XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 46-47

attraction in many a fine bunch of Plover whose fall migration was unceremoniously terminated. On several occasions when we were called upon to remove the "jackets," the request to return the meat indicated the esteem of the epicurean.

Our first prize was a fine specimen of the Red-throated Diver, (*Colymbus septentrionalis*), with the Red (?) patch, taken Oct. 6th. Although the bird is very common at this season—at least in Rhode Island waters—we never saw one taken in this plumage and believe it to be rare.

In the early part of October, several Duck Hawks, (*Falco peregrinus*), proved unwary, but as they are not songsters, we suppose no one will mourn their loss.

A representative of our national bird in the Pine-tree State settled down to its not uncommon banquet of "dead useful." How large and strong it seemed as it tipped the scales at 12 pounds!!

A few Wood Ducks cause us to carefully watch the Ducks now coming in, led by Black, Ruddy and Young Mallards.

We should judge that an unusual number of Pheasants have been imported this season "for millinery purposes"—somewhat lowering the prices. Comparatively few of them are fit for the Cabinet and another season may find still fewer. Looking over a large lot, we found two Reeve's Pheasants remarkable for length of tail. In the large millinery establishments, we notice a few stuffed birds, but the prevailing fashions demand that they should be thoroughly dissected. A new feature is the bronzing in Silver, Gold or Copper of the bill, feet and quills of the wing and tail feathers.

The annual Bird Show closed Oct. 12th, after a short season. Many rare and curious strangers were present. "Poll" in every variety of size, plumage and disposition, Eagles, Hawks, Owls, Pelican, etc. Two exhibits were especially attractive—a Whidah Bird in full plumage, and one of our little Ruby-throats, which regardless of

our presence, sipped its sugar and water with evident relish. These birds being all alive and well would no doubt have been far more pleasing to Mr. F. A. L. than the exhibit under the auspices of the Am. Soc. of Taxidermists held in the same room two winters ago.

A novel and not uninteresting business is a Natural History establishment in a large seaport. A sea captain with 60 feet of dead snake which the trip from Africa proved fatal to, Seals from the dime museum, Alligators unclaimed at the express office, Albatross fresh from Cape Town, Travellers from South America with small lots of bright birds that are in such demand that we scarcely take the trouble to identify them. Moths with 10 inch extent of wing. Beetles for a life size sketch of a pair of which a page of the O. & O. would scarcely afford room. Curious specimens of Dried Fish, Shells, etc. Such have been our actual, every day experience.

Our friend J. M. Wade will forgive us if we mention him as one of the attractions. Were his visits as protracted as those of some of the birds upon our top shelves they would insure us a call from any old subscribers who visit the city. Had the A. O. U. consulted him they would not have required to "circular" the country to decide that the English Sparrow must go.—F. B. W., Boston.

#### The Blue Yellow-backed Warbler.

(*Parula americana*.)

This beautiful but retired species of our American Warblers has but till lately been well known to the science of Ornithology. Therefore, I take the liberty to pen a few notes and observations taken by myself during the last four years. This is one of the handsomest, if not the handsomest, of our Warblers. It arrives about the 10th of May, but I am not sure about the date of departure. Soon after their arrival the

males may be seen hanging head downwards or flying from one old mossy limb to another, swinging, turning and twisting in their merriment at once more being among their nesting haunts.

Soon after their arrival the females come, and the mating at once takes place. No jealousy is displayed and the ceremony goes on quietly. The building process takes place about the 20th of May and the nest is finished in about a week, though I have known instances when the second nest was built and two eggs deposited in a week. The second nest is never (?) as compact and neat as the first. It is almost entirely composed of the hanging Spanish moss with perhaps a few horse hairs or a little downy substance to serve as a lining. Three to five eggs are then deposited and incubation (in which the male participates) commences. Some collectors think the nest hard to find. I generally discover mine by the round, globular shape of the bottom of the mossy bunch from which it is seldom any shreds of moss hang. It is easy to be distinguished when the moss of the tree is not too thick. After the young are hatched the parent birds are busily engaged in feeding the wide, open-mouthed youngsters with tiny larvæ from under the bark of old trees. The Blue Yellow-backed Warbler, though owning a rather large name, fully merits it. I have but a few times been able to see a lively bird in motion, so that I could study its habits and actions.

In June, 1883, I came across a mossy orchard from which I had before collected eggs, and my first find was a nest containing one fresh egg; the next, a nest contained four downy young, for whom the parents pleaded in their best words; and the last, but by no means the least, a full fresh set (four eggs.) As I ascended, the bird (a male) put its head and shoulders just out of the tiny door, peered about for a moment and then left the nest, just as I

was about to put my hand over the entrance and make it a prisoner. My fingers dashed loosely through the outstretched primaries and the bird was flown. My next object was to secure the set and nest and transfer them safely to the ground. In doing this I was obliged to spoil the nest, as is too often the case when the nest is far from the ground, and especially if the branch or limb is of a stout oak. The thickly entwined and matted moss was no easy thing to tear, and the branch being a stout one, it was of no use trying to break or cut it, as any jostling would have a tendency to roll the eggs together and possibly crack one or more, as I once found to my own cost. The hole was too small to admit more than the forefinger; so whipping my knife from my pocket, I quickly slashed the moss in twain and putting the hanging ends between my teeth, I descended with my beauties without the least injury. There are other experiences I might relate but for want of space.

Another thing which I would like to speak about this bird is its perseverance. In about twenty days I got three sets, all out of one tree. The second, if not the third, was laid by the same bird. One nest I found was about three feet from the ground.

In 1881 I collected two sets of this exquisite little Warbler; in 1882 the list was increased to five sets; in 1883 I collected four sets, besides some single eggs; and in 1884 but four sets were taken. I should probably have taken more last season but for my limited time. The eggs are of a pure white ground, sprinkled chiefly about the larger end by small, reddish dots and a few blotches. One set before me is covered from apex to base with small dots.

In conclusion I would say that I should be most happy to hear from others on the habits and nesting of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler.—*Charles H. Andros, Taunton, Mass.*

# Correspondence.

Editor of O. & O.:

While looking in swamp, May 30th, I found eight nests of Parula Warbler, all in clump of spruce trees in a radius of five rods. The nests are beautiful little structures, and were almost entirely concealed with the long moss of which they were made.

While in the same swamp the following week I heard the note of a male Scarlet Tanager, and as I wanted a specimen I followed the sound and got directly under the tree, which was a large chestnut on a knoll near edge of swamp. I again listened for the note. I did not have to wait long for it was a rainy morning and the Tanager was happy, but I looked of course for our bright red bird, and when I saw what looked to be a Baltimore Oriole with the notes of a Tanager I rubbed my eyes and looked again, but that did not change the color of the bird; but with a charge of dust shot I was soon examining what I thought a conundrum. It was certainly a Scarlet Tanager, but its plumage still puzzles me. It was badly shot in head so I could not mount it, but made a poor skin of it. I send you feathers from its breast and back. Its wings are of a faded black. Its outer tail feathers on outer edge are near a bronze. What do you think of it, is it an albino?

J. W. Jackson.

Belchertown, Mass.

[Immature male.—Ed.]

O. & O. XVI, March, 1891, p. 47

A. Sam. Pears Cutting  
Colville A. Capen.  
of May

On the 17th we arose early and had wandered leisurely along, securing a few small birds, until about ten o'clock when we came upon an old mossy orchard of which many of the trees had decayed and fallen or had been toppled over by the winds. Here we found the Parula Warbler (*Compsolthypis americana*) in abundance, singing and flitting about from limb to limb and tree to tree in great merriment. As I stood gazing up among the mossy branches I saw what proved to be a beautiful and well concealed globular nest composed of *usnea* moss, with which the tree was literally covered. It was hanging about nine feet above the ground, lined with a few horsehairs and bits of down, and contained two newly laid eggs. We also found many other nests in different stages of completion. On the 21st I found another nest of this species containing a set of four eggs, attached to the twigs of a small alder bush two feet above the ground over a pool of water about a foot in depth. These are the first instances that I have known of this bird's breeding so early in the season in Massachusetts, never before having found a full set before the first of June.

O. & O. XIII, Feb, 1888 p. 30

August Eggs. -

two sets of Blue Yellow-backed Warbler  
J. M. W. Nank, Conn.

O. & O. VII, Oct. 1882. p. 163.

## Blue Yellow-backed Warbler's Nest.

Some time ago Mr. Twogood of Putnam, Conn., presented us with the nest of a Blue Yellow-backed Warbler that is very unusual in shape, and the finding of it was so peculiar that we think it best to place it on record. It will be noticed that Mr. Twogood was not acquainted with the bird or

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[Vol. 8—No. 2

THE TAXIDERMIST SHOW is postponed until May 4, to be held in New York city.

WHITE-WINGED COOT.—Fred. T. Jencks, Prov., R. I., reports a White-wing Coot, probably Albinistic.

OUR CHECK LIST INCOMPLETE.—It is announced that an Englishman has arrived in New York with twenty-eight Ostriches to be used in Ostrich Farming. As the addled eggs at least will be thrown upon the market it will be necessary to amend our check lists. If not, why not?

I climbed the tree but could not see into the moss, so I pulled it down and found it was a bird's nest. The limb from which I took the nest was about fifteen feet from the ground. The nest is a single piece of moss twenty inches long and about two and a half wide in the widest part. The entrance to the nest is eight inches from the top and two inches in depth. The eggs, four in number, were so far advanced

*Editor of O. & O.:*

While in the same swamp the following week I heard the note of a male Scarlet Tanager, and as I wanted a specimen I followed the sound and got directly under the tree, which was a large chestnut on a knoll near edge of swamp. I again listened for the note. I did not have to wait long for it was a rainy morning and the Tanager was happy, but I looked of course for our bright red bird, and

*J. W. Jackson.*

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[Immature male.—*Ed.*]

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O. & O. XIII, Feb. 1888 p. 30

August Eggs. -

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J. M. W. Noank, Comm.

O. & O., VII, Oct. 1882, p. 163.

Some time ago Mr. Twogood of Putnam, Conn., presented us with the nest of a Blue Yellow-backed Warbler that is very unusual in shape, and the finding of it was so peculiar that we think it best to place it on record. It will be noticed that Mr. Twogood was not acquainted with the bird or its habits, but found the nest from the vibration alone of the hanging moss, which must have been caused by the pulse of the bird. When we received the nest we placed it in warm water to get it back to its natural shape. After it was dry we measured it very carefully and found it twenty-two and a half inches long; and what was still more strange there were two perfect nests, one above the other. The one described below was the bottom nest. The one above had undoubtedly been used the year previous, but both nests are still perfect. But we will let Mr. T. tell his own story.

Feb., 1883.]

AND OC

in incubation that I only saved one. The only lining the nest had was two or three horse hairs." Mr. T. only measured the body of the moss and not the lower portion.

During the season of 1881 Mr. Junius A. Brand of Norwich, Conn., took us to a colony of Blue Yellow-backs. One of the nests to which Mr. B. climbed contained one of the old birds an unwilling prisoner, as by some means it had become entangled in the moss and could not escape until aided by Mr. B. There were no eggs in the nest. In this small colony of a few trees we found some five or six nests beside some old ones of the year previous.

O. & O. VII.1. Feb. 1883. p. 12-13.



# Blue Yellow-backed Warbler.

ITS SUMMER HOME.

The long, pendulous tree moss, so-called, in which the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler builds its nest and breeds, is a lichen of the genus *Usnea* (*U. barbata*, var. *hirta*) and (*U. trichodea*). The filamentous thallus of the latter is coarser and longer than the former, specimens often measuring more than two feet in length. Both species are often found in the same nest, *U. barbata*, or the finer parts of *U. trichodea*, being used for the nest proper.

Of the nine species recognized by Nylander three are European and six are possessed by us. *U. barbata*, var. *Florida* is very common in our woods, but is hardly pendulous enough for the purposes of the Warbler in question. It may be readily distinguished by its numerous peltate apothecia, with radiate margins and whitish faces. The longer species mentioned above (var. *hirta*), is found on juniper or savins in exposed localities on our highest hills; old scraggy trees, partly dead, furnish the greatest supply. I have found none on young trees. The filaments of this lichen are very fine and hair-like. The finest specimens of *U. trichodea* are found in our densest swamps on the white cedar (*Cupressus thyoides*) and on other swamp trees.

In appearance these lichens are related to our northern cedar swamps very much as the Spanish or black moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is to the southern; though the latter is not a lichen, belonging as it does to the pineapple family, it is nevertheless an epiphyte. Lichens are all hardy air plants and simply require a foothold, when they are able to thrive under the most adverse conditions of temperature. In one of these swamps I was shown my first Blue Yellow-back's nest, by an enthusiastic worker hereabouts, who had the kindness to guide me through the Swamp-tangled labyrinths for the space of an hour or more to my great profit and delight. The beautiful *Calla palustris* and the pitcher plant (*S. purpurea*) were in blossom under the shade of the trees, and the *spagnum* under foot, several feet in thickness, was as soft as a bed of down. Botanically considered, the spot was a perfect treasure house. I visited the place again during the Winter of 1880, when the ice assisted me greatly in getting about.

—G. R. C. Norwich, Conn.  
O. & O. VII, May 15, 1882, p. 124-125

Nov., 1882.]

AND O

## Fresh Work in an Old Field.

Akin to the joy a collector feels on finding a bird unknown to science or new to his section, is the pleasure of finding the nest and eggs of a Summer resident which has hitherto escaped his notice. It may have eluded us for years, but, once found, the chances are that we shall not now have much trouble in taking it again and again. Each year the circle of our observation grows narrower, but there will always remain some local *desiderata* to stimulate further search.

Six years I collected before I found a Blue Yellow-backed Warbler's nest. Since then, with their range and peculiarities known, I can take more of their eggs than of the common Summer Warbler.

June 10th found a Blue Yellow-backed Warbler's nest containing three young. I cut the limb off to get at the nest. I then pulled the nest from the limb and tied it to another limb with a piece of fish line. Ten days later W. W. Coe and his hired boy found the nest. The boy climbed to the nest, and when he saw it he said: "By gosh; this nest has been blown down and the old bird has tied it on again with a piece of twine, just as good as any one could." But about that time Coe picked up the barrel of a fish line reel with some line on it, when he solved the mystery at once.—J. I. Goff, Guildersleeve, Conn.  
O. & O. VII, Oct. 1883, p. 78

The Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*) builds and breeds there in great numbers, I am sure, as they are encountered on every side in that part of the island where the moss covers the trees and limbs, but the mosquitoes are a dreadful drawback in securing their eggs, their nests being found, so far as I am aware, only by watching the birds.

Seven Mile Beach, N. J. H. A. R.  
O & O. XIV Jan. 1887, p. 4.

O. & O. VII, Nov. 1882, p. 173

Nesting in the moss from November to June

Parula americana

1884  
Mich. 27

South Carolina

At a station where one train  
stopped for a moment about fifty  
miles from Charleston I heard  
several males in full song in the  
mess-draped live oaks.

April 4. A female at work lining her  
nest with fine, cottony substance. Nest  
in bunch of Tillandsia, about 10 ft., in  
small live oak.

April 23. This nest had three fresh  
eggs.

Parula americana

1884

Charleston, South Carolina

Apr. 4 A female at work on her nest in a  
bunch of hanging Tillandsia about 15 ft  
up in small live oak. Saw her talk  
in some white fluff, object possibly a  
feather. These warblers exceedingly abundant  
here.

April 23. Took the above named nest.

It held three fresh eggs. The  
♀ was on hand but not sitting.  
She made no plaint but hatched  
for the nest when it had, ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> the

## Double Nest of the Parula Warbler.

BY R. R. McLAUGHLIN, STATESVILLE, N. C.

Some years ago while out in search of eggs, I noticed some moss hanging to a dead limb of a maple sapling. Its resemblance to a bird's nest was sufficient to induce me to climb up, although I was not sure what it was. This proved to be a double nest of the Blue Yellow-backed or Parula Warbler (*Comptolipis americana*) and a single bird, reiterating a feeble note of distress, flew about me as I cut off the limb.

Getting it safely to the ground, I found two eggs in one nest and one in the other. The two eggs were perfectly fresh and easily blown; the one egg had settled to one side of the shell, partially dried and could not be blown, which shows it had remained in the nest for some weeks.

My opinion is that a nest was built, one egg laid and for some cause—possibly the death of the male bird—it was deserted and another one was built beside it, the full number not having been laid when found.

O. & O. XII, Dec. 1887 p. 206

*Sketches from Terrebonne Parish  
Louisiana by C. C. W.*

The Blue Yellow-backed Warbler and the ~~Blue-gray Gnatcatcher~~ are two species of our principal breeding birds; but their nests are difficult to discover on account of the exuberance of moss and foliage of our trees, amongst which these birds breed.

C. & O. X, Dec. 1885, p. 191

NESTING OF THE BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER IN SOUTHERN GEORGIA.—In reading Mr. Loomis's interesting paper in the last Bulletin upon the Birds of Chester County, South Carolina, I noticed that he emphasizes the occurrence in summer of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler (*Parula americana*). I find in some notes made at St. Mary's, Camden Co., Ga., a record of a nest of this species, which was found in April, 1877. The female was shot just as she was entering her nest, which until then had been unnoticed in the hanging tillingandia moss. The nest was finished, but no eggs were laid. — W. BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 48

Odd Nesting Habits of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler in Missouri.—Mr. Otto Widmann has kindly sent me a nest of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler (*Parula americana*) which he took near St. Louis, Mo., June 8, 1885. It differs in every particular from the delicate pensile nest which the species commonly builds in the East, where hanging lichens abound on the trees. Mr. Widmann writes me: "It was situated in a bunch of dead leaves and rubbish, such as is often found hanging from those branches of trees which are reached by high water in creeks, freshets, etc. The tree from which I took the nest is a birch, and the twig a long pendulous one, the terminal three feet of which had been immersed by the last high water and had caught and retained a bulky conglomeration of straw, sticks, and dry leaves. At the time of collection (June 8) the nest was 6-8 feet above the water (of Meramec River, St. Louis Co.), and contained five young ones about ten days old."

The nest itself is a small, open, cup-shaped affair, composed chiefly of small rootlets, fine grass, and a moss, intermixed with a few tufted seeds of some plant, and sparingly lined with horse hairs. It measures, externally, 70 mm. in diameter by 70 mm. in depth; internally, 45 mm. in diameter by 40 mm. in depth.—C. HART MERRIAM, Locust Grove, N. Y.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1886, p. 377.

Birds of the Lower Mississippi.  
O. P. Hay.

11. *Parula americana* (Linn.) Bp. BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—This was found to be one of the most common of the smaller birds at Memphis, Vicksburg, and Jackson. We were constantly shooting them while hunting for other species. In the "History of N. A. Birds" it is said to be nowhere abundant; but a day's hunt in the Mississippi lowlands would, I think, convince any ornithologist that this is an error. I have no doubt whatever that it breeds all through the South, although we found no nests. Audubon was probably correct in saying that it breeds in Louisiana, however much he may have erred in regard to the structure of the nest.

Bull. N. O. C., April, 1881, p. 90

## IOLOGIST

[Vol. 14—No. 6

### Curious Set of Eggs of *Parula americana*.

I have lately received a set of five eggs of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler (*Parula americana*), which are in some respects the most remarkable of any of this species that I have ever seen.

They were taken near Taunton, Mass., on June 13, 1888, and were sent to me without the nest; the collector not thinking it necessary to take up so much room in the box as it would occupy if packed with the eggs. When the eggs came I doubted their identity, and did not believe that they were the eggs of *Parula americana*. In fact they looked so exactly like some sets of Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) in my series of that species that I was inclined to think the collector had made a mistake, and to assign them to that bird. However, I determined to write him for the nest in which he found them, and which he told me he had preserved. It came, and at once settled all doubts as to identity of the eggs. It is a large bulky nest, composed entirely of *usnea*, and attached to a small twig from which it is pendant.

Now as I had a series of thirty-eight sets of eggs of this species in my cabinet before the arrival of this last set, and had studied them very closely, I felt sure of being able to distinguish eggs of *Parula* from all others found in Massachusetts. With all humility I must confess my defeat. This set is a complete puzzle. They are white, without any of the gloss that is characteristic of the eggs of this species, and their shape is different from any of the other thirty-eight sets in the series. They are more rounded at the smaller ends, and they are also very much smaller than usual. The markings are almost wholly confined to the larger ends, but instead of forming an indistinct wreath as is usual, the spots become confluent, and form nearly a solid piece of color. This is cinnamon-rufous, but there are a few specks of lavender-gray—so few, however, as not to be noticeable unless closely looked for. They measure: .56 x .44; .57 x .44; .58 x .46; .59 x .44; .59 x .43.

J. P. N.

O. & O. VII. Oct. 1882, p. 17

BLUE YELLOW-BACKED WARBLER.—June 12, took a set of six eggs, being the second set of that number taken by me. Once found a nest containing eight, but was satisfied it belonged to two females. One nest found contained two eggs and one of the Cowbird. It is a mystery how the Cowbird gets into the nest of the blue yellow back.

(Does this not tend to confirm the theory advanced that the Cowbird and Cuckoo of Europe lay their eggs on the ground and place them in the nest with the beak.—Ed.)

Birds of Chester County, Penn.  
Cyrus B. Ressel, Ercildown, Pa.

152. *Compsothlypis americana* (Linn.). Parula Warbler. Summer resident; tolerably common; in migration common. Arrives second week in May. Nidificates first week in June; eggs, four to five. Departs first week in October.

O & O. XIV. Aug. 1889 p. 115

Blue Yellow-backed Warbler.—A  
Large Set.

A set of six eggs of *Parula americana*, was taken June 4, '85, being the only instance of my finding the above number in one set in ten years' collecting. Is it common to find as many as six in a set?—B. F. P.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 14

Summer Birds of Buncombe County,  
N. Carolina. John S. Cairns.

*Compsothlypis americana*. Parula Warbler. Summer visitor; common. Breeds in March and June. Average height of nests has been twenty-five feet, but I have found them as low as five feet and again as high as sixty. Arrives here about the first of April and stays until the end of October. Four eggs are the usual number.

O & O. XIV. Feb. 1889 p. 21

A Philadelphia Collection of Eggs of  
the Mniotiltidae.

*Parula americana*. Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. One set of seven, seven sets of five, twenty sets of four, eight sets of three, two sets of two. Total: thirty-eight sets.

O. & O. XIII. Dec. 1888 p. 178

A Collecting Trip in Texas.  
G. B. Benners, Philadelphia, Pa.

*Parula americana*, Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. We saw several of these birds in Comal County, and one of my companions found one of their nests in the hanging Spanish moss. It contained three eggs.

O. & O. XII. Apr. 1887 p. 50-57.

# ORNITHOLOGIST

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BOSTON, MASS., JANUARY, 1888.

No. 1.

### The Parula Warbler—It's Nest and Eggs.

BY "J. M. W." NORWICH, CONN.

There is no common Warbler in Southern New England during the Spring migration than the old "Blue Yellow-back." Then, for about two days, among the cloud of sparrows in our yards and gardens, we note his frieze jacket of dusty blue, and his scarlet waistcoat, when, "presto," he is off, you say, to his breeding grounds in the Maine wilderness, to Umbagog and beyond. But wait a few days, and we will show him to you housekeeping near at hand. As long ago as Brewster and Maynard's Umbagog trip, it was supposed that a few scattered pairs remained to breed, but that the bulk passed further north. Among my last letters from Dr. Brewer, was one containing a request for nests and eggs of this species for the Cambridge Museum and his own friends. Even then the eggs were regarded as *desiderata*, but it was beginning to be understood that the three Southern New England States were about the centre of its breeding range.

It is, then, because the older writers did not send a special reporter to call on the *P. americana* in his chosen haunts, that we now interview him at home in May, June and July, under his new A. O. U. alias. Come then with me on the twentieth of May, three miles from Norwich, across this vile morass and swamp, to the deciduous woods beyond. The young leaves are not so forward but that we can see how miasmatic mists, aided by east winds and fogs, have draped the outer fringe of trees with rank growths of light green moss.

This is the hanging-lichen or *usnea* of the botanists. Well, here is the true summer home of Parula, this the material his house is built of, and this its only *bric-a-brac*. But what is this fine buzzing sound around us like the droning of some great insect? Yes, it is like and yet un-

like the *cicade* of Autumn. It is the note of Parula at work, at rest, at play. A quick chromatic rise of one octave is all. It has all the *timbre* of the locust, and, like it, seems born of the burning sunshine, and part of it. Not like the matins and vespers of thrush and sparrow, but the livelong day, in the hottest of noonday heat, the constant iteration of it everywhere in this colony, makes a general all-pervading humming undertone, to which the songs of other birds are the occasional "obligatos." Like all small warblers, the activity of both sexes is incessant. This is realistic, if you can mark the flight of the three males which chase each other by us like a flauted riband of blue; and see, one alights a single second on this limb in front of us with his blazing breast turned our way. Could ever lover come more gaily clad? Clearly, all are not paired at this early date. But by outlining each fringed limb in turn against the sky, we find many suspicious looking bunches, and note the incomplete nests. Unlike any other pensile bird-homes, these nests are already swung. The builder simply gathers together the lower strands of the *usnea*, felting it with the same material, and the nest is done. The limb above is the only dome, and one side aperture only is used; yet, at first sight, the nest might indicate a greater degree of skill than the little architect possesses. Sometimes, a tiny bit of wool is at the bottom of the basket, and it is common to see the big ends of two grass-stalks sticking out near the entrance like a pair of horns. No departures from this style of architecture are seen, and I do not think this warbler ever attached the upper part of the nest to limb or twig like the orioles and vireos. Never a nest without *usnea*, but there are many groves of lichened trees without Parula.

Probably in those mossy barrens no pair ever settled, as in others, and by family increase gradually colonized the whole grove. Isolated trees with moss in a wood often show a single

Copyright, 1888, by F. H. CARPENTER and F. B. WEBSTER.

388. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. Its summer home.* By G. R. C.  
*Ibid.*, pp. 124, 125. *O. & O. Vol. VII.*

324. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [Parula americana] Nesting on Shelter Island.* [N. Y.] By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI. p. 62.

44. *The Waning Season.* By J. M. W[hipple]. *Ibid.*, VI. p. 126.—  
Includes notes on the breeding of *Parula americana* (six sets of eggs taken May 29 and 30, and others found later), the Fish Hawk, and other species, in Southern Connecticut. *Fam. Sci. & Fanc. Jour.*

324. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [Parula americana] Nesting on Shelter Island.* [N. Y.] By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI. p. 62.

684. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler's Nest.* Editorial. *Ibid.*, pp. 12,  
13. *O. & O. Vol. VIII.*

nest, but the tendency is to a good colony with this species. I know a swamp where may be found seventy-five pairs of these summer residents. The first time I visited the Preston colony on the 31st of May, I took eight sets of four. The first time I visited another large community in this county on June 5, on a point of land trending into salt water, I took eleven sets of four.

Four is the usual clutch. Five are now and then found. Dr. Brewer reported to me a set of six from Taunton. A still larger set will be referred to below. The eggs are especially fragile, and if incubated can hardly be blown without breaking. Added eggs may instantly be told by the added polish, and by the loss of the rosy suffusion.

The nests are built on dead or green trees, and on savins or deciduous trees, at varying heights. I took one from the single filament of moss caught on the green twig of a birch, within five inches of the ground, and others close to the trunks of great oaks fifty feet in the air. On the lower swamp, huckleberry brush in the littoral colony is a favorite site.

The Parula Warbler escapes the notice of the Cow Bunting. One added "lazy-bird's" egg I did come across, but the side of the nest was torn and Parula had deserted it. Many savins are scattered among the inland colony, and there the Blue Jay often destroys the clutch. But again, with the shore race, *Icterus spurius*, often breeds in the same tree, and in some instances on the same branch, in harmony.

A new nest will be built at once, if the first is destroyed, and three sets of eggs laid. If not disturbed, only an occasional second brood will be reared.

*Usnea* when detached is perishable. If kept in a cellar or damp place, disintegration sets in, and in a few seasons the nests fall to dust at a touch. Placed in dry air they lose color soon, and eventually their shape. But if taken *in situ*, with the surroundings of leaf, twig and moss, for a while some beautiful examples can be shown. Through the lace-work, the eggs can in most cases be seen above, and should be removed with a small spoon to preserve the entrance inviolate.

In June 10, 1886, I had been wading for hours about the swamp on Groton, Long Point, looking into nests of *I. spurius*. Veery and Parula with indifferent success, noting only pairs and trios, when in despair I crossed to an outstanding hornbeam, hoary with lichen. I saw no birds, heard no feeble "chit" of alarm, and after outlining the limbs in succession against the sky

without seeing the semblance of a nest, it occurred to me to rap on the tree. At the first vigorous pound, a Blue Yellow-back flew away like a shot from a solid bank of moss near the trunk some ten feet high. To scramble up and see the best hidden nest of my life was a moment's work. A glance inside sufficed to catch a glimpse of five eggs. So, carefully detaching the top fibres from the huge limb above, I bent the tips of the nest together, took them in my mouth, and descended carefully. It was not until I had placed the nest on the ground and spread the top wide open, that I realized I had taken the biggest clutch on record—seven fresh eggs. This set, with a good series, will be properly described by Mr. Norris.

But aside from them, I have examined a hundred sets of these eggs, and could take more of them than of all the other local warblers combined, if they were needed for science. I used to think, judging by the two series from communities twenty-four miles apart, that family differences could be traced, that the inland lot displayed inherited lilac and lavender markings, and the others only the simple reddish annulations which is the commoner type. But a few seasons work showed that the eggs were intergrading continually, and this year's observation clearly proves that no such distinction can be maintained.

But it is a fact, however, while the Preston race is in full breeding activity by May 31, June 4 is the time to look for full sets at the shore. For nine years, this difference in time was held good. Perhaps fogs and cold winds off the water delay oviposition, as they surely retard field and garden vegetation. When blown, the eggs are pure white. Six sets of fresh-blown Prairie Warbler's eggs, placed by the side of Parula sets, disclosed the fact that the eggs of *D. discolor* are tinged with green. They are given as white by writers, and could only be shown to be otherwise by comparison. The aggregation of markings of the Parula's eggs is at the larger end, and no egg displays the diffusion of spots over the entire surface like some examples of *D. rufo-capilla*. On these delicate eggs, instances of heavy blotching are very rare, and the magnificently blotched set given to Mr. Norris by Mr. F. H. Carpenter, must be regarded as wholly exceptional.

[Few persons are aware, in all probability, of the variation in size, color and markings of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler (*Parula americana*), or according to the nomenclature of the American Ornithologist's Union *Comp-*

*sothylis americana*) when seen in a large series. They are small, delicately marked eggs, rarely presenting any brilliant colors, and they must be closely examined in a strong light to see all their beauties.

Having been exceptionally fortunate in forming an unusually fine series, for which I am almost wholly indebted to the famous collector and naturalist "J. M. W." (Mr. C. L. Rawson) of Norwich, Connecticut, it has occurred to me that some description of them might be welcome to the readers of THE ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST. With the exception of those sets where it is especially noted to the contrary, they were all collected by "J. M. W.," and they were selected by him from a very large series, running through a number of years, with the object of showing all the variations to which the eggs of this species are subject.

Set I. June 12, 1881. New London County, Conn. Two eggs, incubated. Nest in low swamp oak, reached from the ground. Eggs very peculiar, being shaped like those of *Oryzopsis virginiana*. Creamy white, spotted and speckled with reddish brown and lilac, more heavily at the larger ends: .63 x .45; .63 x .45.

Set II. June 7, 1883. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest twenty feet from ground on hornbeam tree, in wet ground, but away from main swamp. Tree covered with lichens. Nest of *usnea*. Two straws at entrance. Female seen; many males in neighborhood. Nest with eggs in next tree, two rods away. Eggs very small. White, speckled (at large ends only) with reddish brown and faint lilac: .59 x .46; .60 x .46; .60 x .44; .60 x .45.

Set III. June 4, 1886. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest well up in large outstanding swamp oak, heavily draped with *usnea*. Small eggs, quite pointed. Glossy white, delicately speckled with lilac and dark reddish brown. The markings are almost wholly at the larger ends: .65 x .46; .67 x .48; .66 x .47; .65 x .47.

Set IV. June 4, 1881. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in *usnea*-covered swamp, in a huckleberry bush, in a submerged bog. Female watched on nest. Eggs chalky white, delicately speckled with lilac and reddish brown: .65 x .47; .63 x .47; .64 x .48; .64 x .47.

Set V. June 12, 1881. Groton, Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest well hidden in *usnea*, in swamp. On maple tree, at end of lowest limb. Last nest of

season. Female seen. Eggs white, wreathed around the larger ends with reddish brown and lilac specks: .67 x .48; .67 x .47; .69 x .49; .65 x .49.

Set VI. June 22, 1886. Side hill opposite Hell Gate, Preston, Conn. Three eggs. Nest in savin. Last set of eggs of this species taken in 1886. Eggs white, with a slight gloss, speckled with dark reddish brown and lilac, chiefly at the larger ends, where the markings form indistinct wreaths: .70 x .48; .70 x .48; .67 x .46.

Set VII. May 28, 1886. Saybrook, Conn. Collected by Hon. John M. Clark. Four eggs, fresh. Light creamy white lightly speckled with reddish brown and lilac. In three of the eggs the markings form indistinct wreaths, but in the fourth they are wreathed around the smaller end: .67 x .49; .66 x .50; .67 x .50; .64 x .51.

Set VIII. June 4, 1881. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Three eggs, fresh. Nest in lichen-draped young oak. Both parents observed. Eggs glossy white, delicately speckled with lilac and reddish brown. The markings are more numerous near the larger ends, where they form indistinct wreaths: .67 x .47; .66 x .46; .68 x .47.

Set IX. June 6, 1881. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. In a scrub oak, outside of swamp. The highest of twelve nests in this colony. Two pairs of birds crying, but the other nest was not found, owing to the thickness of the lichen. Eggs light creamy white, beautifully wreathed with light reddish brown and lilac. Quite pointed: .66 x .46; .67 x .45; .67 x .46; .67 x .45.

Set X. June 8, 1886. Hell Gate, Preston, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in savin tree—a mass of hanging lichen, six feet from the ground. Eggs blunt and thick in contour. Creamy white, quite glossy. Spotted with light reddish brown and lilac. The markings are thicker near the larger ends: .63 x .48; .63 x .50; .64 x .51; .64 x .50.

Set XI. June 1, 1886. Long Society Swamp, Preston, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in large black birch. Female on eggs until the nest was touched. Eggs glossy white, speckled with dark reddish brown and lilac. The markings form wreaths around the larger ends and the remainder of the eggs are almost entirely unmarked: .63 x .49; .63 x .49; .60 x .46; .62 x .49.

Set XII. June 3, 1885. Old Saybrook, Conn. Collected by Hon. John N. Clark. Four eggs, fresh. Nest hanging from the branch of a small cedar tree about seven feet from the

388. Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. Its summer home. By G. R. C. *Ibid.*, pp. 124, 125. O. & O. Vol. VII.

324. Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [*Parula americana*] Nesting on Shelter Island [N. Y.] By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 62.

44. The Waning Season. By J. M. W[hipple]. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 126.—Includes notes on the breeding of *Parula americana* (six sets of eggs taken May 29 and 30, and others found later), the Fish Hawk, and other species, in Southern Connecticut. *FAM. SOL. & FARM. JOUR.*

324. Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [*Parula americana*] Nesting on Shelter Island [N. Y.] By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 62.

684. Blue Yellow-backed Warbler's Nest. Editorial. *Ibid.*, pp. 12, 13. O. & O. Vol. VII.

ground in the woods. Eggs long, but not pointed. Glossy white, marked near the larger ends with dark reddish brown and lilac spots: .67 x .46; .70 x .46; .69 x .46; .71 x .48.

Set XIII. June 4, 1881. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in large hornbeam tree in salt marsh. Thirty feet from the ground. No bird on eggs but heard. Nest unmistakable. Eggs creamy white, quite glossy. Marked with spots and specks of dark reddish brown and lilac. These are in the form of wreaths around the larger ends, but the remainder of the eggs are almost wholly unmarked: .65 x .48; .66 x .47; .67 x .48; .66 x .47.

Set XIV. June 5, 1885. Monroe County, Penn. Collected by Theodore Roth. Three eggs, fresh. Nest of hanging moss, on oak tree, about thirty feet from the ground. Eggs very small. White, quite heavily spotted with reddish brown and lilac: .61 x .45; .61 x .44; .60 x .42.

Set XV. May 29, 1886. Hell Gate, Preston, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in low dead savin, near path in deciduous woods. Female seen. Eggs white, quite heavily spotted with bright reddish brown and lilac. These are principally grouped around the larger ends: .64 x .47; .62 x .47; .61 x .47; .63 x .47.

Set XVI. June 12, 1881. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Two eggs, fresh. Nest in low swamp oak, reached from ground. Eggs white, marked at large ends with bright reddish brown spots: .68 x .44; .64 x .45.

Set XVII. June 4, 1881. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in swamp oak, near trunk, and seven feet from the ground. It was constructed of *usnea*. Female on eggs. Male near. Eggs white, spotted and speckled all over with bright reddish brown and a few lilac ones: .67 x .48; .66 x .46; .69 x .48; .67 x .47.

Set XVIII. June 4, 1881. Groton Long Point, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in swamp maple. Eggs light creamy white speckled with lilac and dark reddish brown. At the larger ends the specks form indistinct wreaths: .71 x .47; .68 x .45; .68 x .46; .71 x .45.

Set XIX. June 12, 1886. Groton Long Point, near Noank, Conn., on Long Island Sound. Seven eggs, incubation just begun, and equally in the whole clutch. Nest hidden in heavy growth of hanging lichen, about twelve feet from the ground, and near the trunk of outstanding oak. It was betrayed by the female, who was startled from the eggs by jarring the tree. No other nests or birds on tree. Eggs

glossy white speckled and spotted with lilac and bright reddish brown. The markings form indistinct wreaths near the larger ends: .68 x .50; .65 x .51; .66 x .49; .66 x .49; .66 x .50; .64 x .48; .66 x .51.

Set XX. May 11, 1887. Iredell County, North Carolina. Collected by R. B. McLaughlin. Five eggs, fresh. Nest made almost completely of long gray moss, woven together. Lined with a few feathers and soft materials. Female on nest. Eggs white, speckled and spotted, almost wholly at the larger ends, with lilac and bright reddish brown: .69 x .47; .70 x .47; .68 x .47; .69 x .48; .68 x .46.

Set XXI. June 3, 1883. Harvey's Swamp, Preston, New London County, Conn. Three eggs, fresh. Nest on dead limb of green white oak. All made of *usnea*, no lining. Two other nests building near by. Both male and female seen. Eggs light creamy white, quite blunt, and heavily wreathed with very dark reddish brown and lilac. They bear a remarkable resemblance to certain undoubted eggs of *Dendroica virens* before the writer: .66 x .50; .66 x .50; .66 x .49.

Set XXII. June 11, 1886. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Three eggs. Nest in tall swamp—huckleberry bush—*usnea* over bush and neighboring trees. Birds seen. Eggs white, quite heavily spotted near the larger ends with reddish brown and lilac: .70 x .46; .68 x .47; .66 x .47.

Set XXIII. June 4, 1886. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Three eggs, incubation begun. Nest on a large hornbeam tree, low down, and near the trunk. Eggs creamy white, and glossy, wreathed near the larger ends with light reddish brown and lilac: .68 x .48; .69 x .47; .66 x .47.

Set XXIV. June 11, 1886. Groton Long Point, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in oak tree, near trunk, twenty-five feet from ground. Eggs white, beautifully wreathed near the larger ends with bright reddish brown specks, and also a few lilac ones. The remainder of the surface is almost wholly unmarked: .67 x .51; .66 x .50; .66 x .48; .65 x .49.

Set XXV. June 8, 1886. Hell Gate, East Side, Preston, Conn. Four eggs. Nest on a long savin limb, with foliage. It hung conspicuously as there was no other bunch of moss on the tree. Four rods from the tree containing this nest, there were other nests of this species, containing eggs, both east and west. Eggs light creamy white, quite heavily wreathed near the larger ends with light reddish

brown and lilac. The remainder of the surface is almost wholly without markings. Very small: .60 x .47; .61 x .46; .62 x .47; .63 x .47.

Set XXVI. June 8, 1886. Hell Gate, East Side, New London County, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in green savin, *usnea* covered, low down. Other nests in near neighborhood. Many birds in colony. Eggs white and quite glossy. Heavily marked near the larger ends with large spots of bright reddish brown and a few lilac spots. The markings form wreaths, and the remainder of the eggs are immaculate: .65 x .47; .66 x .50; .67 x .47; .66 x .49.

Set XXVII. June 11, 1886. Groton Long Point, Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in swamp maple, eleven feet from the ground. Female covering eggs. Eggs light creamy white, spotted over most of their surface, but especially near the larger ends, with light reddish brown and lilac: .65 x .47; .67 x .47; .66 x .47; .66 x .47.

Set XXVIII. June 4, 1881. Groton Long Point, Conn. Four eggs. Nest in stunted maple on edge of wooded swamp. Birds near. Eggs glossy, creamy white, unmarked except at the larger ends, where they are beautifully wreathed with light reddish brown and lilac spots: .66 x .48; .64 x .47; .65 x .48; .65 x .47.

Set XXIX. May 25, 1881. Hell Gate, Preston, Conn. Three eggs, incubation begun. Nest in small dead savin, six feet from the ground. Eggs creamy white, heavily marked near the larger ends with very bright reddish brown and lilac spots: .68 x .49; .69 x .48; .68 x .46.

Set XXX. June 7, 1883. Long Point, Groton, on Fisher's Island Sound (Long Island Sound) Conn. Four eggs, fresh. Nest in large hornbeam tree, outside of swamp. Made of hanging lichen, on lowest limb. Female covering clutch until touched. Eggs glossy, creamy white, heavily marked over most of their surface with light reddish brown and lilac. The markings principally take the form of large spots, closer together near the larger ends in three of them, but in the fourth they are grouped around the smaller end. The markings are unusually heavy for this species: .63 x .48; .62 x .46; .61 x .47; .56 x .48.

Set XXXI. June 1, 1886. Long Society, Preston, Conn. Three eggs. Nest in green birch sprout, about three feet from ground. Female on. Eggs glossy, creamy white. Very heavily blotched with very bright reddish brown and lilac. The blotches are unusually large and confluent for this species, and are nearly all grouped around the larger end. Re-

markably showy eggs: .65 x .47; .67 x .48; .66 x .50.

Set XXXII. June 4, 1886. Rehoboth, Bristol County, Mass. Collected by Frederic H. Carpenter. Five eggs, incubation advanced. Nest the usual pendant structure of *usnea*; nearly globular, and placed on an old moss-covered apple tree, fifteen feet from the ground. Words fail to describe this exceedingly brilliantly colored set, which were generously presented to the writer by Mr. Carpenter. The ground color is pure white, unsullied by the slightest stain. The markings are chiefly confined to the larger ends, and consist of large spots of the most brilliant vermilion red. No coloration on any other eggs of this species ever seen by the writer approaches it in brightness, and the contrast of the very bright red with the pure white makes a very beautiful appearance: .65 x .46; .63 x .44; .66 x .47; .65 x .45; .67 x .46.

Set XXXIII. May 31, 1887. Hell Gate, Preston, Conn. Five eggs, fresh. Nest in only bunch of *usnea* on dead juniper, five feet from ground. Conspicuous from its position midway on long, clean horizontal branch. Female seen many times; both parents observed when set was taken. Eggs pure white, and very glossy for this species. Speckled and spotted with dark reddish brown and lilac. The markings form wreaths near the larger ends, and are not perceptible on any other parts of the eggs. One of them has the markings entirely of a light lavender wreath, composed of specks of that color: .61 x .49; .59 x .46; .59 x .48; .63 x .48.

Set XXXIV. June 1, 1884. Standish, Maine. Collected by L. C. Holmes. Five eggs, fresh. In low evergreen, nine feet from the ground. Eggs creamy white, quite glossy; speckled and spotted with dark reddish brown and lilac. The markings form indistinct wreaths near the larger ends; very long and pointed: .72 x .49; .71 x .48; .71 x .48; .69 x .47.—J. P. N.]

*O. & O. VII.* Jan. 1888 p. 1-5

338. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. Its summer home.* By G. R. C. *Ibid.*, pp. 124, 125. *O. & O. Vol. VII.*

324. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [Parula americana] Nesting on Shelter Island [N. Y.]* By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 62.

44. *The Waning Season.* By J. M. W. Hipple. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 126.—Includes notes on the breeding of *Parula americana* (six sets of eggs taken May 29 and 30, and others found later), the Fish Hawk, and other species, in Southern Connecticut. *Fam. Sci. & Fam. Jour.*

324. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [Parula americana] Nesting on Shelter Island [N. Y.]* By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 62.

684. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler's Nest.* Editorial. *Ibid.*, pp. 12, 13. *O. & O. Vol. VIII.*

Aug. 8th, wind north-east, weather fair. Semipalmated Plover and Sandpipers (ad.) abundant. Terns of two species, Common and Roseate, abundant. Large Gulls, presumably the Herring, common. A few Black-bellied Plover and Robin Snipe seen in adult plumage. Heard several Greater Yellow-legs and saw three Piping Plover in young of year plumage.

Aug. 9th, wind south-west, weather fair. Birds same as previous day.

Aug. 10th, wind south-west, weather fair. New arrivals noted; two Hudsonian Curlew and several small flocks of adult Sanderlings.

Aug. 12th, wind south-west, weather fair. Birds same as two previous days. Saw gunners that had in their possession several Red-breasted Snipe, young plumage, one Greater Yellow-legs and several Piping Plover, young plumage. They informed me that they had shot a large Sandpiper with long legs, and from the description I decided it to be a Stilt Sandpiper.

Aug. 23rd, wind south-west to south-east, moderate with light fog. Several large flocks of Plover seen flying over the Island, one of Golden and the others Black-bellied. Saw quite a number of Red-breasted Snipe and Sanderlings, a small number of Greater Yellow-legs seen.

Aug. 24th, wind south-west and north-east to south-east, weather stormy. Large flocks of Plover, mostly Black-bellied, seen flying about the Island and a large number seen on the beach at high tide, one Carolina Rail seen on the meadow, two flocks, one of six Black Ducks and the other a small one of Scoters, flew over the house.

Aug. 25th, wind north-east to north-west, weather stormy. The stormy, foggy weather of yesterday and to-day increased the numbers of birds. Black-bellied Plover seen in large flocks passing over but only a few stopping. Semipalmated Sandpipers abundant, some dozen or more Black Tern (young) seen for the first time to-day.

Sept. 4th, wind north-east, fresh, weather the larger ends the specks form indistinct wreaths: .71 x .47; .68 x .45; .68 x .46; .71 x .45.

Set XIX. June 12, 1886. Groton Long Point, near Noank, Conn., on Long Island Sound. Seven eggs, incubation just begun, and equally in the whole clutch. Nest hidden in heavy growth of hanging lichen, about twelve feet from the ground, and near the trunk of out-standing oak. It was betrayed by the female, who was startled from the eggs by jarring the tree. No other nests or birds on tree. Eggs

ows and four shot by Mr. W. Several Hudsonian Curlew and Greater Yellow-legs came to-day.

Sept. 8th, wind north-west to north-east, moderate, weather fair. Mr. Whiting took several Hudsonian Curlews and Turnstones (adult) several of Greater Yellow-legs, Yellow-legs and Golden Plover noticed.

Sept. 9th, wind north-east to east, moderate, weather fair. Several large flocks of Black-bellied Plover arrived. Collected some fine specimens of Hudsonian Curlew and adult Turnstones.

Sept. 10th, wind south to south-west, stormy. Nine Hudsonian Curlews seen to-day. Mr. Whiting took a fine adult Eskimo Curlew. These birds are now scarce, where five years ago they were abundant. First Pectoral Sandpiper of the season taken to-day. I collected young Turnstone, Piping Plover, Sanderling and Semipalmated Plover. Sanderlings on the increase; Richardson's Jaeger common and on the increase.

Sept. 11th, wind north-east to east, moderate, weather fair. Several Red-breasted Snipe, (young) seen. Among birds shot to-day was a Black-bellied Plover in nearly adult plumage.

Sept. 12th, wind south-east, fresh, weather stormy. Two bunches of Eskimo Curlew, one of twenty and the other of fifteen seen. Sanderlings increasing; first Red-breasted Sandpipers seen and shot to-day.

Sept. 13th, wind east, weather fair. The heavy wind and storm of yesterday brought along a small flight of birds. Sanderlings (young) much increased; Black-bellied Plover increased, a large number seen on the flats. Several small bunches of Red-breasted Sandpipers (young) seen; four Golden Plover seen on the meadow by myself and afterwards seen by Mr. W., who shot one in young plumage. Greater Yellow-legs increased.

Sept. 14th, wind east to south-west, moderate, weather foggy. Pectoral Sandpipers increased and ten shot on salt meadows; no other increase noted.

Sept. 15th, wind north, very light, weather fair, birds about the same as previous day; slight increase in Red-breasted Sandpipers and Black-bellied Plover in plumage; Scoters abundant out in bay.

Sept. 16th, wind north, very fresh, weather fair; several large flocks of Black-breasts seen.

Sept. 17th, wind north, fresh, weather fair, Sanderlings increased. Out of thirty-five shot, all were in young plumage. A bunch of six Golden Plover still remain on the meadow. A

388. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler. Its summer home.* By G. R. C. *Ibid.*, pp. 124, 125. *O. & C. Vol. VII*

324. *Blue Yellow-backed Warbler [Parula americana] Nesting on Shelter Island [N. Y.]* By W. W. Worthington. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 62.

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Auk, XIV, July, 1897, pp. 289-294.  
NESTING OF THE PARULA WARBLER (*COM-  
PSOTHLYPIS AMERICANA*) IN CAPE MAY  
COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.<sup>1</sup>

BY MARK L. C. WILDE.

PERHAPS no other portion of the State of New Jersey is better adapted as a breeding ground for the Parula Warbler than Cape May County. Quite a number of its streams, including Dennis Creek and tributaries, are dammed off to supply power to the various saw and grist mills, thereby forming mill-ponds, and in some cases these streams spread over a considerable area, owing to the extreme shallowness of the valleys.

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia.

beautify the mill-ponds. Various ericaceous bushes and open sphagnum bogs are scattered throughout this region, and these bogs often continue to the very sources of the small streams which supply the mill-ponds with water.

The Parula Warblers breed undisturbed in these secluded spots, where the Kingbirds may be seen with outstretched wings, swaying on the topmost branches of the cedars, and where insects and Hummingbirds (*Trochilus colubris*) may be heard, as they swiftly wing their way across the ponds. Uninterested persons seldom if ever intrude, probably on account of the 'out-of-the-way' localities, and the difficulties connected with penetrating the dense bushes which surround their breeding grounds.

The trees here in the upper portion of the mill-ponds increase in size, gradually culminating into dense red-water cedar-swamps, as they follow the small streams to their sources.

Viewed from a short distance these saturated cedar-swamps present the appearance of a solid mass of dark green, and when

I desire to speak more particularly of the ponds, and large shallow stretches of water above the mill-dams, together with the small winding streams which supply them, as these are the localities where the long-bearded lichen or 'beard-moss' (*Usnea barbata*), in which the Parula Warblers almost invariably construct their nests, grows most abundantly.

The mill-ponds formed by the streams north of the Dennis Creek are wholly or partly hemmed in by dense thickets of various kinds of bushes, beyond which, almost as far as the eye can see, the higher dry land or as I might better say the hot 'Jersey Sand-Barrens,' are overgrown with scrub-oaks (*Quercus ilicifolia*), interspersed with a few tall pines (*Pinus rigida*), while other portions are cleared for farming purposes.

In the upper portion of the northern mill-ponds the numerous small cedar-bushes, which when fullgrown may only be termed scrub-cedars (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), together with other trees and bushes, all of which are often matted together in small clumps or islands, are nearly all draped with festoons of 'beard-moss.' In addition to this, dead stumps of the cleared off timber still project out of the water, and many of their decayed tops being covered with smaller vegetation and 'beard-moss,' also help to beautify the mill-ponds. Various ericaceous bushes and open sphagnum bogs are scattered throughout this region, and these bogs often continue to the very sources of the small streams which supply the mill-ponds with water.

The Parula Warblers breed undisturbed in these secluded spots, where the Kingbirds may be seen with outstretched wings, swaying on the topmost branches of the cedars, and where insects and Hummingbirds (*Trochilus colubris*) may be heard, as they swiftly wing their way across the ponds. Uninterested persons seldom if ever intrude, probably on account of the 'out-of-the-way' localities, and the difficulties connected with penetrating the dense bushes which surround their breeding grounds.

The trees here in the upper portion of the mill-ponds increase in size, gradually culminating into dense red-water cedar-swamps, as they follow the small streams to their sources.

Viewed from a short distance these saturated cedar-swamps present the appearance of a solid mass of dark green, and when

in the interior, the eye can penetrate but a few yards among the thickly clustered trunks. The Parula Warblers do not breed within these dense, dark, cedar-swamps, but may occasionally be found breeding on their borders.

Between that portion of the ponds where the cedars are more open, and the dense cedar-swamps above, the small channels are so choked up with bushes, and tangled, twisted, moss-covered branches of the scrub-cedars, that progress in a flat-bottom boat (which is the safest way to travel through this region, on account of the uncertainty of the bogs) is very slow and laborious.

A few remarks on the streams, and southern tributaries of Dennis Creek, would probably be of interest.

The mill-dam on Sluice Creek, the southeastern branch of Dennis Creek, forms a lake half a mile in length, and marks the north-western extremity of the 'Timber and Beaver Swamp,' which stretches away nearly three miles to the east. The extensions of this creek south of the lake referred to, are gradually drained of their water by the swamps, which as I have already intimated, have been formed by the flatness of the land.

These swamps are bordered with tall bushes, beyond which are woods of chestnut, oak, beech, laurel, and pitch-pine, interspersed with a large quantity of holly, while the swamps themselves outside of the main channels, are overgrown with sassafras, maple, cedar, gum, magnolia, and various kinds of bushes, including bush-huckleberry, cranberry, alder and cedar, the whole being interwoven with thorny green-briars. The crooked and twisted branches of these trees and bushes are nearly all draped with beard-moss. Numerous open sphagnum and cranberry bogs are also scattered throughout this region.

Among the beautiful moss-covered trees and bushes already described, the Parula Warblers congregate in large numbers, to make their summer home. They arrive from the south apparently already paired, about the first of May, and by the second week have commenced nest building.

Nests can be found from the border to the middle of the mill-ponds and swamps, and may be looked for anywhere from under the tip of an outstretched or drooping branch to against the tree trunk, or in smaller bushes, and from one foot above the water to

twenty feet high. Generally, however, on account of the beard-moss growing more abundantly on the lower branches of the trees, under eight feet may be considered the average height. From the data of thirty-three nests the summary is as follows:—

1	foot high,	1 nest.
2	feet high,	2 nests.
2½	" "	6 "
3	" "	7 "
3½	" "	2 "
4	" "	1 nest.
4½	" "	2 nests.
6	" "	2 "
7	" "	3 "
8	" "	3 "
13	" "	1 nest.
15	" "	2 nests.
20	" "	1 nest.

Parula Warblers seem to colonize naturally to a larger extent than any of our other Warblers, probably on account of the beard-moss (of and in which, as I have said before, this species almost exclusively builds its nests), growing more heavily on certain patches of trees and bushes, than on others.

Having selected a suitable spot the female alone assumes the task of nest building, while her mate leisurely feeds among the tangled branches, and occasionally clinging to a twig head downward in Chickadee fashion, he reaches here and there for lurking insects, and flying a short distance, pauses for a moment to emit his song.

The nest is invariably placed in a hanging position. The female usually selects a tree in which the beard-moss grows quite thickly, and here within the tufts, she loops and weaves together the inside hanging particles of moss, forming a beautiful nest, much resembling the style of the Baltimore Orioles. The birds are careful that the moss shall be left hanging in its natural way, from the bottom and sides of the nest, and often so conceal it, that it can only be found by a close and careful observer. Into the structure the bird then carries thread-like pieces of beard-moss, collected from some nearby tree. This moss is used exclusively

by some Parulas in lining their nests, while others add a few horse-hairs and a yellow down which is taken from the stems of swamp ferns. The nest is very compact and closely woven, occasionally having a few pine-needles stuck into it around the outside, probably to help support and pin it to the hanging particles of moss.

The entrance, which is always on a level with the top of the bowl, is made through the moss on the side, very often directly under the limb where the moss is parted. The walls of the bowl, being at least a half an inch in thickness, form a platform which is often flattened out resembling a small mat, on which the bird rests when entering or leaving the nest. Some nests have two or more entrances, either left as peep windows for escape, or unintentionally caused by the thinness of the moss above the bowl.

I have examined a few nests where the entrance was made from the top, the nest having been suspended either between two twigs or between the trunk of a tree and an adjoining tuft, but such cases as these are rare, and may be considered departures from their regular style of building. From over a hundred nests of this species, found during the past three years, nearly all were partly or entirely roofed over, with the entrances from the sides as previously described.

One nest collected during May, 1893, was suspended from a two inch limb, containing little or no moss, outside of that of which the nest was constructed, but this I do not consider a typical nest.

The inside measurements of the nests vary, ranging from about one and a half to two inches both in depth and diameter.

I have watched Parula Warblers enter their nests, and have seen both sitting on their eggs and young, by keeping perfectly still and quiet in a row-boat, at a distance of not more than from three to four feet.

With very few exceptions, the number of eggs laid is four, which show remarkable variation in size and shape. They have a white ground color, and are more heavily dotted with reddish brown and lilac at the larger ends, often forming a ring round them.

Full clutches of fresh eggs may be found on the 20th of May, and I found one nest containing young just hatched on the 4th of June, 1893.

Although I have seen a number of small snakes, throughout these ponds and swamps, drop off the lower branches of the trees and bushes at my approach, I have never found any nests of the Parula Warblers which had been disturbed by them.

On May 21, 1894, after a heavy wind and rain storm which lasted some four or five days, the swamps in northern Cape May County were completely flooded. I found one Parula's nest during this storm which had been washed out, and probably many others on the lower branches were destroyed. The land bordering one of these swamps northwest of Dennisville, which on May 18 seemed very dry, was also flooded for some distance, and many Black and White Warblers, a nest of which was found here on that date, were seen feeding among the trees, and no doubt not only their nests, but many others of the ground nesting species were destroyed.

*Dendroica*  
*tigrina*

**The Cape May and Other Rare Warblers at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.**—

The fall of 1916 will ever remain a memorable one from the fact of my having added the rare Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) to my list, as well as the Nashville (*Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*) and Water-Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*) two examples of the first, and one each of the two latter having been obtained. Of the Cape May five were seen between August 28 and September 12, one only of the Nashville on August 16, and one of the Water-Thrush on August 26. In addition to these a fine male Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*) was obtained on August 24, the second only that I have seen here so far. Two Northern Parulas (*Compothlypis americana usnea*) were observed on August 13, and between August 23 and September 22, nineteen examples of the Bay-breasted (*Dendroica castanea*) were noted, as well as eleven of the Blackburnian (*Dendroica fusca*) between August 11 and September 9, and twenty of the Canada (*Wilsonia canadensis*) between August 11 and September 17. Two examples of the Yellow Palm (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*) were seen on May 6, and another interesting item was the finding of the Black-throated Blue (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*) breeding for the first time in June and July.—H. Mousley, Hatley, Que.

Ank xxxiv. Apr. 1917. p. 214.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF  
BY MR. & MRS. MOSELEY

**Dendroica tigrina.** CAPE MAY WARBLER.—1912, a large migration during May—the only migration observed in 10 years. One was found dead which was mounted and is in a private collection.

**Icteria virens virens.** YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—1912, June, one

Ank 30, July, 1913, p. 437.



Jefferson Highlands, N. H.

May 26, 1902 -

My dear Mr. Brewster:

It was my good  
fortune to find a Cape May  
warbler in the Public Garden of  
Boston on May 11. He remained  
June days, <sup>11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup></sup>. Was singing  
during each observation.

I notified Mr. Bradford Torrey  
— he came in, — we saw —  
heard him sing together.

His June appearance is his  
appearing in the section of Boston  
a very rare occurrence? If so,  
I am glad to be able to furnish  
a record —

[Very truly yrs.  
Horace W. Wright.]

Birds of Upper St. John,  
Batchelder.

23. *Dendroica tigrina* (Gm.) Bâ. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—I shot a male at Fort Fairfield, June 23, in a thick second growth of spruces on the edge of a path.

Bull. N. O. C., April, 1882, p. 110

96. *Cape May Warbler* (*Dendroica* *Tigrina*.) By J. N. *Ibid.*, XIV, p. 389,—Record of its capture at Quebec, Canada. For. & Stream

Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. McHenry.  
Part II. Land Birds.  
Auk XXIV Jan. 1907, p. 83.

245. *Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—Regular migrant, sometimes not uncommon, May 8 to 19, and September 5 to 11; latest spring records May 24, 1890, and May 29, 1906. Formerly one of our rarest warblers; there were not more than four records between 1889 and 1897. Mr. J. Hughes Samuel considers the increase began in 1898, and in 1900 I found them not uncommon in the city.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,  
Nipissing District, Ontario.  
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 52

55. *Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—One adult male met with August 12.

**Abundance of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) around Quebec.**—It is surprising to note that this rare warbler has been found very commonly in the woods around Quebec this spring, and even in the parks of the city. Two young ornithologists, P. W. Cook and A. W. Ahern, of this city, shot about fifteen, of which twelve were brought to me. They met with six to eight bands of the warbler, each containing something over a score of birds, and these in different localities, they seemed to be almost as numerous as the Myrtle Warbler. The first specimen seen, which was in company with a small flock of Black-throated Green Warblers, was shot on the 9th of May and by the 18th the species was very common. The last was seen on the 25th.

It has also been noticed that many other warblers were more common this spring than usually, especially the Blackburnian and Bay-breasted.—C. E. DIONNE, Quebec, Can. Auk, XXIX, Oct. 1912, p. 545.

1883

Dendroica tigrinaEssex, N. H.August 29

Two ♂♂ (nos. 390, 391)  
 shot by C. R. Bond in  
 thickets near hotel.

both from C. R. Bond

1884

Dendroica tigrinaSheldonville,  
N. H.August 19

An adult ♂ shot by  
 Bond and a young bird  
 by Chubberson just way  
 up the mountain back of  
 the house " (Phebe's)"

Exp. water back C. R. Bond.

Dendroica tigrina

Autumnal occurrence in Mass.

Lyons, Mass.  
Aug. 16, 1880.

Mr. Lyfts of Lyons has a finely mounted  
♀ Cape May Warbler in perfect fall plumage  
which he shot at above place and date. He  
noticed it in a tree in front of his house  
where it was hopping about in company  
with a D. blackburniana which was also secured  
(see slip headed D. blackburniana).

This is the first autumnal Mass. specimen  
that I have ever heard of. The early date  
confirms a suspicion which I have long  
entertained that many of the northern.

Dendroica tigrina

Spring occurrence

Frammingham, Mass.  
May 21, 1882

Mr. H. A. Purdie killed two males  
at Frammingham. For remarks on the  
usual flight of Warblers on above date  
see Nuttall Bull. Vol. VII, Oct. 1882.

\* I took the specimen on 'our' Lewis, a ♀.  
While the skin was drying in a form in my bird  
room a mouse attacked it eating half the head  
off and pulling cotton out of the neck. I presumed I  
destroyed it as I have not got it.

Dendroica tigrina -

Gray Place, near Fresh Pond, Cambridge  
Mass. May 15, 1901, by A. V. Ridder  
& Richard Tustis. See letter in Sp.  
Notes under Troglodytes aedon.

hunting Warblers which are not  
seen here in autumn really pass  
through in August when no one  
is looking for them.

*Dendroica tigrina*

Spring occurrence

Framingham, Mass.  
May 21, 1882

Mr. H. A. Purdie killed two males  
at Framingham. For remarks on the  
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While the skin was drying in a form in my back  
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destroyed it as I have not got it.

*Dendroica tigrina*

Gray Place, near Fresh Pond, Cambridge  
Mass. May 15, 1901, by A. V. Ridder  
& Richard Insko. See letter in Lp.  
Note under *Troglodytes aedon*.

1884

Aug. 25-

Took a young bird, still moulting but in nearly perfected fall plumage, in the cedar belt on French's hill, Watertown. I had just driven a large mixed flock through and beyond these cedars and returning happened to spy the Cape May sitting in the top of a cedar, alone, preening its feathers. It was not in the least fat. Direction not positive, as it was shot in the afternoon, but I made it a ♂. It is the first I have ever taken here in autumn & I know of only one other autumn occurrence; a specimen taken by Keefe at Lynn, Mass. (see card record of date!)

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

Dendroica tigrina

1887

In May at ~~Barnstable~~ Arlington

May 14

Master R. Norton of Cambridge lens an adult ♂ Cape May shot at about town & plain. It was in an oak near the edge of pine woods.

Dendroica tigrina:

See article by Purdie, "Rare Warblers in Massachusetts," under Geothlypis philadelphia.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct. 1892, p. 252.

**A Late Fall Record for the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in Eastern Massachusetts.**—Toward dusk of Oct. 9, 1902, at the time when smaller birds are actively moving about, I noticed a few restless warblers in a Norway maple near my home in Ponkapog, Mass. It was impossible for me to determine the species, as they remained near the top of the tree, but one bird was shot, and proved an immature female Cape May Warbler. I am not positive as to the identity of the other birds in this group, but one other bird which I saw was not *Dendroica tigrina*.—FRED. B. McKECHNIE, *Boston, Mass.* *Auk*, XX, Apr., 1903, p. 48.

**The Cape May Warbler in Eastern Massachusetts.**—In view of the extreme rarity of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in eastern Massachusetts, their occurrence in unusual numbers during the past autumn in Lexington, Mass., seems worthy of note.

Between Sept. 9 and 14, 1914, I met nine Cape Mays in four widely separated parts of the town,—three on the 9th, five on the 13th, and one on the 14th. Three of the birds were about my house in the town centre,—two in a maple, and one in a mountain ash tree. Three other birds frequented a red cedar pasture where I watched them for an hour. They kept close together, generally in the same tree, and passed repeatedly over a beat which included two or three acres. We met another individual on the border of a piece of woodland, and another in an isolated dead oak tree.

The birds showed a remarkable range of plumage; some, old males evidently, were almost as brilliantly marked with yellow and orange as in spring, others, birds of the year no doubt, were pale grey, streaked above and below with brown, and lacked all yellow except on the rump. The Cape Mays accompanied a heavy flight of migrants, composed chiefly of Bay-breasted and Magnolia Warblers.

Mr. William Brewster kindly sends me a record of three more Cape May Warblers which he saw in the nearby town of Concord, Mass. His dates extend materially the limits of the flight.

"August 31, ♀ in red cedar in berry pasture. Very tame.

"September 12, ♀ in oaks and larches. Very tame.

"September 30, ♀ spent several minutes in bush directly in front of our dining room window through which I viewed her at a distance of not over five feet. She was accompanied by three Black-polls."

Mr. Walter Faxon, who saw two of the Lexington birds, had previously met the Cape May Warbler but three times in this vicinity during twenty-eight years of constant observation.

Mr. William Brewster (Birds of the Cambridge Region 1906, pp. 329, 331) summarizing all the instances which his notes supply of the bird's occurrence in the Cambridge Region, says,— "It will be noticed . . . that during twenty-four — or two-thirds — of the total thirty-six years which the records cover, the beautiful bird was not noted at all, and that during eleven out of twelve years where it was observed only a single individual was seen each season. These facts appear to me to warrant the conclusion that the species is really one of the very rarest of the Warblers which visit us with any degree of regularity."

In his summary, which includes the records of many observers, he mentions but a single occurrence in this region in autumn.

From the evidence of Mr. Faxon's and Mr. Brewster's experience the flight of Cape May Warblers during the past autumn must be considered unprecedented.—WINSOR M. TYLER, M. D., *Lexington, Mass.*

*Auk* XXXII, Jan., 1915: p. 104.

**Unusual Late Autumn and Winter Records for Eastern Massachusetts.**—On the 15th of November, 1916, Dr. W. M. Tyler and I discovered a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in the town of Belmont, Mass., and we found it again in the same place on the 19th and 25th of the same month. In this region, on the 9th of December, 1916, we saw a Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*). Mr. H. W. Wright had seen one of these birds (probably the same individual) in this neighborhood on the 9th of the previous month. On the 25th of February, 1917, Mr. Charles W. Jenks showed me a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*) wintering in Bedford, Mass., where it had been under observation since the 6th of January.—WALTER FAXON, *Lexington, Mass.*

*Auk* XXXIV, Apr., 1917, p. 217.

Q. O.

XIV

Oct. 1889

p. 160

Editor O. & O.:

While collecting birds the other day, Aug. 28th, I shot three Red-bellied Nuthatches. They were feeding in white birch trees much in the same manner as Warblers would. I also shot a Cape May Warbler, the only one I ever saw. Is it not rather early for these birds so far south?

W. H. Lucas.

Bridgeport, Conn.

**The Cape May Warbler in Litchfield County, Conn.**—As the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) is so rarely reported from this State, it may be of interest to record my capture of a male of this species on May 8, 1905, near the village of Litchfield, Conn. It was with a large flock of Black-throated Green Warblers in a row of Norway spruces bordering the cemetery of the village.—E. SEYMOUR WOODRUFF, *New Haven, Conn.*

*Auk*, XXIII, Jan., 1906, p. 105.



*Third Addendum to List of Birds of Adirondack  
Region. C. Hart Merriam.*

203. *Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—Dr. A. K. Fisher informs me that he has seen a specimen of this species that was killed at Lake George, May 27, 1883, by Oliver B. Lockhart. The late Mr. A. Jennings Dayan told me, not long before his death, that he was positive that he had seen a Cape May Warbler in the town of Lyonsdale, in Lewis County, but not having secured the specimen he was unwilling to have the event recorded.

*Auk*, I, Jan., 1884. p. 59.

*Auk*, XIII, Jan., 1896, p. 87.

*Notes on Long Island Birds.*

*Dendroica tigrina*.—At Canaïsee Village, Sept. 12, 1894, a Warbler of rather obscure markings was taken in the edge of a little grove of trees which stands back but a few yards from the salt-grass meadows. This and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler were seen in the lower branches of a thickly foliated tree overhanging a heavy undergrowth of blackberry brambles and tall weeds. It was rather carelessly labeled as a *Magnolia* Warbler, which, of course, it does not in the least resemble. It was rediscovered and my diagnosis of it as the Cape May Warbler was kindly verified by Mr. Chapman. The specimen is an adult female.

*William C. Braislin, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

General Notes.

Cape May Warbler at Shelter Island, New York.—While collecting birds here on May 11, 1893, I secured a fine male Cape May Warbler. It was leisurely searching for insects in an oak grove on the very highest point on the island, and showed no alarm at my presence. It came in a 'bird wave' consisting of Warblers, Orioles, Chimney Swifts, Bobolinks, and Thrushes, which came on in numbers on that date or during the night previous.—W. W. WORTHINGTON, *Shelter Island Heights, New York*.

*Auk* X, July, 1893 p. 303.

Cape May Warblers Destructive to Grapes on Long Island.—With much interest I read of the actions of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in recent numbers of 'The Auk.' These warblers were especially abundant here last fall and there were twenty or more on our place from September 20 to October 10. They might be found at all hours of the day in the grape arbor, where they were observed to puncture the grape skins with their bills and drain out the juice.—JAMES W. LANE, JR., *St. James, L. I.*

*Auk*.xxii. Oct. 1915: p. 498.

tioning the fact to my wife, she told me she had also noticed one in the forenoon, but knew not that it was of special interest. This was Feb. 14, 1884. The next day I examined over fifty individuals of Junco but never a wing-bar was visible. Under Feb. 21, I find the following entry in my diary: "At 8.30 A. M. I shot in my yard a White-winged Snowbird. It is in worn plumage, but appears to be a typical bird; both wing-bars show plainly, the tail has two feathers on each side pure white, and the third one more than half white. It was in company with a second which appeared to be in brighter plumage. This makes five specimens seen, two bright and three dull ones. They were each time associated with a party of Tree Sparrows that has stayed around my premises all winter, so that there may have been but two individuals and the same ones seen several times." On March 7 a single one was seen. This completes the record for Caddo.

Late in the winter a box of skins arrived from Wisconsin which I had prepared the previous spring. On comparing my new Snowbird with the old ones, I was not a little surprised to find among them its counterpart. This second specimen bore a tag which showed its history to be as follows. The morning of Jan. 14, 1883, it was found alive in my woodshed at Jefferson, Wis., in the southern part of the State. It was kept alive three days, and when it died its skin was saved. Both specimens are still in my possession.

This species was originally described by Mr. Aiken in 1872, from specimens taken in the mountains of Colorado, where the species is abundant. Three years later it was taken at Ellis, in Western Kansas, by Dr. L. Watson. It has been found nowhere else. The past winter Dr. Watson again found the species in the same locality, so that it may be considered a regular winter visitant to Western Kansas, but its occurrence in the Indian Territory, and especially in Wisconsin, is probably fortuitous.

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#### THE NESTING HABITS OF THE CAPE MAY WARBLER (*DENDRÆCA TIGRINA*).

BY MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

My first acquaintance with the Cape May Warbler in its home was made during the summer of 1882, when our party secured several specimens in the heavy woods back of Edmundston, near the northern boundary of New Brunswick. Previous to this I knew nothing of the occurrence of this species in this Province except what I had learned from Mr. Boardman of its

occasional appearance near the Maine border during the breeding season. A year later, in July, 1883, Mr. Arthur P. Chadbourne captured a solitary example at Rothesay, some nine miles east of this city (St. John), and this completed the record until June, 1884, when the nest and eggs were discovered just outside the city limits by my friend and co-worker in this locality, Mr. James W. Banks. For this is Bank's story that I am telling, he, with characteristic generosity, desiring my name to be associated with its rehearsal.

The birds seen and heard at Edmundston were invariably on the topmost branches of the tallest evergreens (usually spruces) growing in the neighborhood. Our experience furnished us with good and sufficient reason for remembering this fact. As the birds were constantly singing, their general whereabouts was easily discovered, but no small amount of patient searching was required to catch sight of them; and we soon found out that after sighting and shooting a bird there was still much to be gone through before it was in hand; for after tumbling a short distance it usually staid. The trees were too stalwart to be moved by any shaking power we could command, so every successful shot entailed a climb—and such a climb! The branches of these spruce trees were so close together we had to call up all our reserve of muscle and skill to squirm through; and in addition to this we had to encounter the annoying twigs—rough, sharp little things, with which the branches were thickly studded, and which tore clothes, scratched faces, pricked the flesh as they rolled down underneath our flannels, and made themselves generally disagreeable. And so it came about that the Cape May was associated in my mind with the stately trees and the solitude of deep forests—a solitude broken by the merry notes of these songsters, the chatter of squirrels, the sigh of the swaying boughs, and by the strong language of exhausted and exasperated collectors; and, because of these recollections, I was altogether unprepared for my friend's announcement that a pair had built in a location of an almost exactly opposite character. This nest found by Banks was hid among a cluster of low cedars growing in an exposed position, on a rather open hill-side, near a gentleman's residence, and within a stone's throw of a much frequented lane. The nest was placed less than three feet from the ground and within six inches of the tips of the branches, amid the densest part of the

foliage, by which it was well screened from observation. It was fastened to two of the tiny branchlets—pendent from one and resting upon the other—and secured to each by strawberry vines and spider silk.

On June 10 Mr. Banks was sauntering past the cedar and quite accidentally brushed the branches aside, disclosing an incomplete nest, and he observed on a bush near by a bird whose appearance was unfamiliar, apparently not much disturbed, but evidently interested in Bank's presence. At that time the daylight was too far gone to admit of any accurate account being taken of the form or color of the bird, but sufficient was noted to identify it afterwards as a female Cape May Warbler. And here I may add that though the nest was frequently visited during the following week, the male was not seen, nor was the song heard.

On June 13 the nest was completed and two eggs were laid. During this visit the female was near at hand, and when Banks and a comrade withdrew to the shade of an adjoining tree she followed them and gave ample opportunity for a close and satisfactory examination—coming within a couple of yards and coolly plucking the feathers of wings and tail, all the time keeping her eye upon the intruders, but exhibiting no alarm nor uttering a single note.

On June 16 the hen was discovered on the nest and was driven off. She did not fly more than a few yards, and then perching on a bush plumed her feathers while watching her disturbers, occasionally uttering a faint chirping note. This note did not seem like a call, nor an alarm; nor did the bird appear at all excited.

To insure the identification being perfect the bird was secured before the nest was taken. This structure and the completed clutch of four eggs are before me as I write. The walls of the nest are composed of minute twigs of dried spruce, grasses, and strawberry vines, with spider's webbing interwoven with the coarser fabrics and knotted into numerous little balls, which are bound upon the surface as if for ornament. The exterior is rather roughly made, but is more compact, and bears evidence of more art than is shown in the nest of the Magnolia Warbler, which it somewhat resembles. The interior, however, is much more neatly and artistically formed in the Cape May's than in its congener's.

The lining is composed entirely of horsehair, and this is laid with precision, and shaped into a prettily formed cup, the brim being turned with exquisite grace. The dimensions of the nest are, outside,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches high and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 inches across the mouth; inside,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide.

The eggs are of much the same dull white ground-color, of a slightly ashen hue, as that of the Magnolia's. The form of the egg is different, however, the Cape May's being less pyriform—the point less acute. The markings are of light and dark lilac, and yellowish and reddish tints of brown; the brown being on the surface and the lilac underneath, the coatings of shell producing the various shades. As a rule the spots are circular and very small—many being quite minute—and are irregularly distributed, no two eggs bearing the same pattern, though in all four there is decided tendency to concentration in a ring near the large end; but on some there are spots over the larger part of the entire shell, while the small end of others is immaculate. The measurements are  $.69 \times .49$ ,  $.65 \times .49$ ,  $.66 \times .49$ ,  $.66 \times .48$ .

Ank, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 33-36.

#### BIRD NOTES FROM LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM DUTCHER.

~~1. Passerculus princeps Maynard. IPSWICH SPARROW.~~—Wishing to ascertain whether this species is as rare as it has been generally supposed to be, or was overlooked from the inaccessibility of its winter habitat, I arranged with two of my correspondents to send me all the individuals of this species that they could secure. Both of them spend the winter months on the beach, one at Fire Island Inlet and the other at Shinnecock Bay, which is some forty miles further east. That they might be perfectly familiar with these birds, I sent them early in the autumn a skin of one as a sample. December 29, 1883, I received from my Fire Island correspondent twenty-nine specimens which he shot between December 17 and 29. He informed me that he had looked carefully but unsuccessfully for them until December 17, when he found six and secured them all. Subsequent to that time and prior to the 29th he secured twenty-three additional specimens. He also added that he usually observed them in pairs, although sometimes there would be three or four together. They were always found feeding on the seeds of tall grasses and weeds that

## THE TONGUE OF THE CAPE MAY WARBLER.

BY FREDERIC A. LUCAS.

IN SEEKING to unravel the tangled skein of passerine birds, and to straighten out its intermingled loops, the taxonomist has sought to avail himself of every possible character, and, from the development of the embryo to the markings on the egg shell, little has been left untried.

While the character of the tongue has not been overlooked, comparatively little use has been made of it, partly on account of the time and trouble required for the careful study of this organ, and partly perhaps from a doubt as to its value. In his 'Review of North American Birds' Prof. Baird, in treating of the family Sylviolidæ, compared the tongues of several species of this group with those of several species of Cœrebidæ, drawing particular attention to the tongue of *Dendroica tigrina* and, mainly on this character, basing the genus *Perissoglossa*.

Quite recently Dr. Gadow, in his paper on the 'Structure of Certain Hawaiian Birds,' has laid considerable stress upon the shape and structure of the tongue, using it as the principal character of one of his alternative keys to the arrangement of the families of birds therein discussed. Both Prof. Baird and Dr. Gadow have dwelt to some extent on the tongue of the Cœrebidæ, the one using it to unite these birds with the Sylviolidæ, the other to ally them with the Drepanididæ.

In this connection arise the questions: What is the exact taxonomic value of the tongue? and how constant is its pattern in any given group? To these I would add another query: To what extent is the food of a bird indicated by the shape of the tongue?

It is much easier to ask these questions than to answer them, and I am very far from being ready with a reply; still, having had occasion to recently examine the tongues of a number of birds, I am at least partly prepared with a response as to my own ideas on the subject. It would seem that the soft parts of birds would naturally be more plastic than the hard, and that while the bone yields more or less to the pull of the muscle and

is changed by internal and external conditions, that such organs as the tongue and viscera would be more easily influenced, especially by any change, either from choice or necessity, in the character of a bird's food. If this be so, we should find differences between these parts in nearly related birds, while at the same time it should not surprise us to discover resemblances between them among forms separated by space, or skeletal structure, but whose food habits are similar.

*Cæreba cærulea* and *C. cyanea* are certainly near relatives, and their skulls are so much alike that I doubt my ability to tell them apart, but their tongues, although the same in structure, differ so decidedly that they may be distinguished from one another at a glance. Unfortunately, for lack of material, I can carry the subject no farther and am unable to say whether or not the tongue of *cærulea* is typical of the plainer colored species. Now about as far from America as one can readily get, in New South Wales, we find that one of the Honey-suckers (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) has a tongue structurally like that of *Cæreba*, but elaborated and refined to a greater degree, being more slender, more tubular, and more finely feathered. Judged by cranial characters the two birds are widely separated, for, as Dr. Parker has pointed out, the palate of *Acanthorhynchus* has a feature in the relations of the premaxillaries and palatines found in the Ostrich but exceptional higher up the scale. Coming back to America, to the genus *Dendroica*, we will find that while the tongues of various species are constructed on the same plan, that there is great specific variation in the execution of details, the extremes, so far as I have examined, being marked by *Dendroica maculosa* and *D. tigrina*, and that while these extremes are widely separated, yet the gap between them is bridged over by other species which show intermediate stages. The Tanagers, too, show considerable diversity in their tongues, some being thick and fleshy, others thin and horny, while there is much less uniformity of plan in these birds than in the Warblers. While these facts are entirely too few to form the basis of a reply to the question, What is the value and constancy of pattern of the tongue? they seem at least to hint that while there may be a certain general structural plan in a given group of birds, that this plan is subject to great specific varia-

tions in its details, and cannot be too surely relied on, since it is liable to be copied by outsiders.

Next as to the relationship between food and tongue. The Sandwich Islands Drepanididæ have a most perfect tubular tongue, such as one might make on a gigantic scale by curling up the edges of a long slip of paper until they meet, and then tying them firmly in place. These birds (some of them at least) have, like the Meliphagidæ, a suctorial apparatus, so that if they do not feed on nectar it is not for lack of ability to do so. And yet some of these birds, as their stomachs testify, feed on fruit and some on spiders and insects. *Certhiola* has a brushy, twisted tongue, such as we find in some of the Meliphagidæ, but while these last are said to be honey-suckers *par excellence*, *Certhiola* seems to have a decided liking for insects.

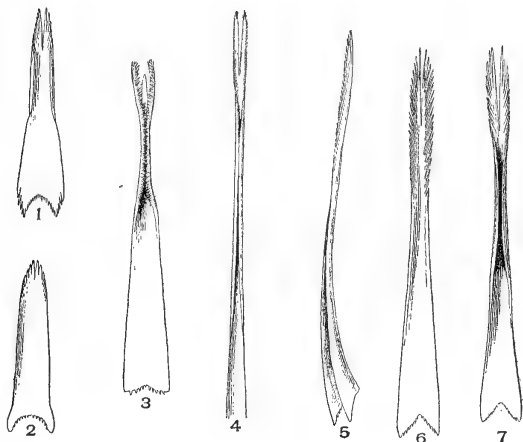
In the genus *Cæreba* (or *Abelorrhina*) as well as in *Glossoptila*, the tongue seems admirably fashioned for catching insects or sucking honey, and these birds feed on berries. So with the Hummingbirds, which have a good suctorial tongue and yet feed principally on insects, although they may perhaps have honey for dessert.

Just here I wish to forestall a possible criticism. It is quite likely that in the cases just mentioned the birds may feed at some seasons on fruit, and at others on insects, but the point I would make is that even if they do, the tongue is no certain guide to the nature of the birds' food.<sup>1</sup>

Coming finally to *Dendroica tigrina*, whose tongue has been used as a peg on which to hang this paper, if any one will take the trouble to compare the figure accompanying this paper—which was made from a specimen collected by my friend Mr. William Palmer—with figure 5, page 163, 'Review of North American Birds,' he will find that they do not agree with one another. If comparison is made with figure 4 of the same work, it will be seen that, making allowance for the personal equation of the two draughtsmen, the figures agree very well. If the tongues of *Cæreba* herein figured (Fig. 5-7) be compared

<sup>1</sup> Mr. F. M. Chapman (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. VI, p. 26) says that in Trinidad *Abelorrhina cærulea* and *A. cyanea* feed on the blossoms of the *bois immortel*, but he does not say that he examined the stomachs of any birds. Query: Were the birds after nectar or insects?

with 3 and 5 (same work) their structural resemblance will be evident, and the conclusion is unavoidable that, as at Babel, there has been a confusion of tongues, and that the principal character of the genus *Perissoglossa* has originated in a mistake. Granting, however, that the tongue had been as figured, it hardly seems that the characters would have been sufficiently solid to form the foundation for a genus.



ENLARGED FIGURES OF TONGUES OF BIRDS: 1. *Dendroica tigrina*; 2. *D. maculosa*; 3. *Glossoptila campestris*; 4. *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*; 5 and 6. *Cæreba cyanea*; 7. *C. cærulea*.

It may be said further that the tongue of *Certhiola* is also wrongly figured in the 'Review of North American Birds,' for it is not fimbriated, but brushy and twisted. Unfortunately such errors are bound to occur, and we must ever be on the watch for them; and I will only say in conclusion that if any one thinks them inexcusable, let him try to dissect and figure a dozen similar specimens and the crime will perhaps seem to have some extenuating circumstances.



*aestiva*



*Dendroica aestiva.*

April

$C_9$        $a$   
 $28 \frac{1}{2} \times (7_{\text{ox}})$      $29 \frac{2}{4} \times (7_{\text{ox}})$      $30 \frac{4}{4} \times (7_{\text{ox}})$   
 $G_{15} \times C_9$   
 $23 \frac{1}{2} \times 30 \frac{2}{4} \times 1897$

1894

May

May 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> one 8 singing daily Cambridge G. Brown. Cl. Cl. G. C  
 May. Bontate Co. Cl. Cl. G. C  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1894  
 " 1895  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 " 1895  
 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1896  
 " 1897

46

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1896  
 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1897

base garden Cambridge  
2\* 3\* 4\* 5\* 6\* 7\* 8\* 9\* 10\* 11\* 12\* 13\* 14\* 15\* 16\* 17\* 18\* 19\* 20\* 21\* 22\* 23\* 24\* 25\* 26\* 27\* 28\* 29\* 30\* 31\* 32\* 33\* 34\* 35\* 36\* 37\* 38\* 39\* 40\* 41\* 42\* 43\* 44\* 45\* 46\* 47\* 48\* 49\* 50\* 51\* 52\* 53\* 54\* 55\* 56\* 57\* 58\* 59\* 60\* 61\* 62\* 63\* 64\* 65\* 66\* 67\* 68\* 69\* 70\* 71\* 72\* 73\* 74\* 75\* 76\* 77\* 78\* 79\* 80\* 81\* 82\* 83\* 84\* 85\* 86\* 87\* 88\* 89\* 90\* 91\* 92\* 93\* 94\* 95\* 96\* 97\* 98\* 99\* 100\* 101\* 102\* 103\* 104\* 105\* 106\* 107\* 108\* 109\* 110\* 111\* 112\* 113\* 114\* 115\* 116\* 117\* 118\* 119\* 120\* 121\* 122\* 123\* 124\* 125\* 126\* 127\* 128\* 129\* 130\* 131\* 132\* 133\* 134\* 135\* 136\* 137\* 138\* 139\* 140\* 141\* 142\* 143\* 144\* 145\* 146\* 147\* 148\* 149\* 150\* 151\* 152\* 153\* 154\* 155\* 156\* 157\* 158\* 159\* 160\* 161\* 162\* 163\* 164\* 165\* 166\* 167\* 168\* 169\* 170\* 171\* 172\* 173\* 174\* 175\* 176\* 177\* 178\* 179\* 180\* 181\* 182\* 183\* 184\* 185\* 186\* 187\* 188\* 189\* 190\* 191\* 192\* 193\* 194\* 195\* 196\* 197\* 198\* 199\* 200\* 201\* 202\* 203\* 204\* 205\* 206\* 207\* 208\* 209\* 210\* 211\* 212\* 213\* 214\* 215\* 216\* 217\* 218\* 219\* 220\* 221\* 222\* 223\* 224\* 225\* 226\* 227\* 228\* 229\* 230\* 231\* 232\* 233\* 234\* 235\* 236\* 237\* 238\* 239\* 240\* 241\* 242\* 243\* 244\* 245\* 246\* 247\* 248\* 249\* 250\* 251\* 252\* 253\* 254\* 255\* 256\* 257\* 258\* 259\* 260\* 261\* 262\* 263\* 264\* 265\* 266\* 267\* 268\* 269\* 270\* 271\* 272\* 273\* 274\* 275\* 276\* 277\* 278\* 279\* 280\* 281\* 282\* 283\* 284\* 285\* 286\* 287\* 288\* 289\* 290\* 291\* 292\* 293\* 294\* 295\* 296\* 297\* 298\* 299\* 300\* 301\* 302\* 303\* 304\* 305\* 306\* 307\* 308\* 309\* 310\* 311\* 312\* 313\* 314\* 315\* 316\* 317\* 318\* 319\* 320\* 321\* 322\* 323\* 324\* 325\* 326\* 327\* 328\* 329\* 330\* 331\* 332\* 333\* 334\* 335\* 336\* 337\* 338\* 339\* 340\* 341\* 342\* 343\* 344\* 345\* 346\* 347\* 348\* 349\* 350\* 351\* 352\* 353\* 354\* 355\* 356\* 357\* 358\* 359\* 360\* 361\* 362\* 363\* 364\* 365\* 366\* 367\* 368\* 369\* 370\* 371\* 372\* 373\* 374\* 375\* 376\* 377\* 378\* 379\* 380\* 381\* 382\* 383\* 384\* 385\* 386\* 387\* 388\* 389\* 390\* 391\* 392\* 393\* 394\* 395\* 396\* 397\* 398\* 399\* 400\* 401\* 402\* 403\* 404\* 405\* 406\* 407\* 408\* 409\* 410\* 411\* 412\* 413\* 414\* 415\* 416\* 417\* 418\* 419\* 420\* 421\* 422\* 423\* 424\* 425\* 426\* 427\* 428\* 429\* 430\* 431\* 432\* 433\* 434\* 435\* 436\* 437\* 438\* 439\* 440\* 441\* 442\* 443\* 444\* 445\* 446\* 447\* 448\* 449\* 450\* 451\* 452\* 453\* 454\* 455\* 456\* 457\* 458\* 459\* 460\* 461\* 462\* 463\* 464\* 465\* 466\* 467\* 468\* 469\* 470\* 471\* 472\* 473\* 474\* 475\* 476\* 477\* 478\* 479\* 480\* 481\* 482\* 483\* 484\* 485\* 486\* 487\* 488\* 489\* 490\* 491\* 492\* 493\* 494\* 495\* 496\* 497\* 498\* 499\* 500\* 501\* 502\* 503\* 504\* 505\* 506\* 507\* 508\* 509\* 510\* 511\* 512\* 513\* 514\* 515\* 516\* 517\* 518\* 519\* 520\* 521\* 522\* 523\* 524\* 525\* 526\* 527\* 528\* 529\* 530\* 531\* 532\* 533\* 534\* 535\* 536\* 537\* 538\* 539\* 540\* 541\* 542\* 543\* 544\* 545\* 546\* 547\* 548\* 549\* 550\* 551\* 552\* 553\* 554\* 555\* 556\* 557\* 558\* 559\* 560\* 561\* 562\* 563\* 564\* 565\* 566\* 567\* 568\* 569\* 570\* 571\* 572\* 573\* 574\* 575\* 576\* 577\* 578\* 579\* 580\* 581\* 582\* 583\* 584\* 585\* 586\* 587\* 588\* 589\* 590\* 591\* 592\* 593\* 594\* 595\* 596\* 597\* 598\* 599\* 600\* 601\* 602\* 603\* 604\* 605\* 606\* 607\* 608\* 609\* 610\* 611\* 612\* 613\* 614\* 615\* 616\* 617\* 618\* 619\* 620\* 621\* 622\* 623\* 624\* 625\* 626\* 627\* 628\* 629\* 630\* 631\* 632\* 633\* 634\* 635\* 636\* 637\* 638\* 639\* 640\* 641\* 642\* 643\* 644\* 645\* 646\* 647\* 648\* 649\* 650\* 651\* 652\* 653\* 654\* 655\* 656\* 657\* 658\* 659\* 660\* 661\* 662\* 663\* 664\* 665\* 666\* 667\* 668\* 669\* 670\* 671\* 672\* 673\* 674\* 675\* 676\* 677\* 678\* 679\* 680\* 681\* 682\* 683\* 684\* 685\* 686\* 687\* 688\* 689\* 690\* 691\* 692\* 693\* 694\* 695\* 696\* 697\* 698\* 699\* 700\* 701\* 702\* 703\* 704\* 705\* 706\* 707\* 708\* 709\* 710\* 711\* 712\* 713\* 714\* 715\* 716\* 717\* 718\* 719\* 720\* 721\* 722\* 723\* 724\* 725\* 726\* 727\* 728\* 729\* 730\* 731\* 732\* 733\* 734\* 735\* 736\* 737\* 738\* 739\* 740\* 741\* 742\* 743\* 744\* 745\* 746\* 747\* 748\* 749\* 750\* 751\* 752\* 753\* 754\* 755\* 756\* 757\* 758\* 759\* 760\* 761\* 762\* 763\* 764\* 765\* 766\* 767\* 768\* 769\* 770\* 771\* 772\* 773\* 774\* 775\* 776\* 777\* 778\* 779\* 780\* 781\* 782\* 783\* 784\* 785\* 786\* 787\* 788\* 789\* 790\* 791\* 792\* 793\* 794\* 795\* 796\* 797\* 798\* 799\* 800\* 801\* 802\* 803\* 804\* 805\* 806\* 807\* 808\* 809\* 810\* 811\* 812\* 813\* 814\* 815\* 816\* 817\* 818\* 819\* 820\* 821\* 822\* 823\* 824\* 825\* 826\* 827\* 828\* 829\* 830\* 831\* 832\* 833\* 834\* 835\* 836\* 837\* 838\* 839\* 840\*

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June

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*B. H. Comstock* B.H. C.H. Bensons *Tal.* *C.*

18<sup>th</sup> <sup>1st</sup> <sup>2nd</sup> <sup>3rd</sup> <sup>4th</sup> <sup>5th</sup> <sup>6th</sup> <sup>7th</sup> <sup>8th</sup> <sup>9th</sup> <sup>10th</sup> <sup>11th</sup> <sup>12th</sup> <sup>13th</sup> <sup>14th</sup> <sup>15th</sup> <sup>16th</sup> <sup>17th</sup> <sup>18th</sup> <sup>19th</sup> <sup>20th</sup> <sup>21st</sup> <sup>22nd</sup> <sup>23rd</sup> <sup>24th</sup> <sup>25th</sup> <sup>26th</sup> <sup>27th</sup> <sup>28th</sup> <sup>29th</sup> <sup>30th</sup> <sup>31st</sup> <sup>32nd</sup> <sup>33rd</sup> <sup>34th</sup> <sup>35th</sup> <sup>36th</sup> <sup>37th</sup> <sup>38th</sup> <sup>39th</sup> <sup>40th</sup> <sup>41st</sup> <sup>42nd</sup> <sup>43rd</sup> <sup>44th</sup> <sup>45th</sup> <sup>46th</sup> <sup>47th</sup> <sup>48th</sup> <sup>49th</sup> <sup>50th</sup> <sup>51st</sup> <sup>52nd</sup> <sup>53rd</sup> <sup>54th</sup> <sup>55th</sup> <sup>56th</sup> <sup>57th</sup> <sup>58th</sup> <sup>59th</sup> <sup>60th</sup> <sup>61st</sup> <sup>62nd</sup> 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<sup>414th</sup> <sup>415th</sup> <sup>416th</sup> <sup>417th</sup> <sup>418th</sup> <sup>419th</sup>

$3\frac{\pi}{4}$   $4\frac{1}{2}$   $1 = \text{to } 30^{\text{m}}$  one pair, their young one from  $23^{\text{m}}$  { Cambridge W. Dean

July

[illegible]

$C_1 \quad C_2 \quad C_3 \quad C_4$

1\* 2\* 3\* 6\* 10\* 10\* 10/15 2\* 3\* 10\* 10\* 10/19

August

Cambridge Garden Cds. 1894  
 1/1 2/1 3/1 4/1 5/1 6/1 7/1 8/1 9/1 10/1 11/1 12/1 13/1 14/1 15/1 16/1 17/1 18/1 19/1 20/1 21/1 22/1 23/1 24/1 25/1 26/1 27/1 28/1 29/1 30/1 31/1 32/1 33/1 34/1 35/1 36/1 37/1 38/1 39/1 40/1 41/1 42/1 43/1 44/1 45/1 46/1 47/1 48/1 49/1 50/1 51/1 52/1 53/1 54/1 55/1 56/1 57/1 58/1 59/1 60/1 61/1 62/1 63/1 64/1 65/1 66/1 67/1 68/1 69/1 70/1 71/1 72/1 73/1 74/1 75/1 76/1 77/1 78/1 79/1 80/1 81/1 82/1 83/1 84/1 85/1 86/1 87/1 88/1 89/1 90/1 91/1 92/1 93/1 94/1 95/1 96/1 97/1 98/1 99/1 100/1 101/1 102/1 103/1 104/1 105/1 106/1 107/1 108/1 109/1 110/1 111/1 112/1 113/1 114/1 115/1 116/1 117/1 118/1 119/1 120/1 121/1 122/1 123/1 124/1 125/1 126/1 127/1 128/1 129/1 130/1 131/1 132/1 133/1 134/1 135/1 136/1 137/1 138/1 139/1 140/1 141/1 142/1 143/1 144/1 145/1 146/1 147/1 148/1 149/1 150/1 151/1 152/1 153/1 154/1 155/1 156/1 157/1 158/1 159/1 160/1 161/1 162/1 163/1 164/1 165/1 166/1 167/1 168/1 169/1 170/1 171/1 172/1 173/1 174/1 175/1 176/1 177/1 178/1 179/1 180/1 181/1 182/1 183/1 184/1 185/1 186/1 187/1 188/1 189/1 190/1 191/1 192/1 193/1 194/1 195/1 196/1 197/1 198/1 199/1 200/1 201/1 202/1 203/1 204/1 205/1 206/1 207/1 208/1 209/1 210/1 211/1 212/1 213/1 214/1 215/1 216/1 217/1 218/1 219/1 220/1 221/1 222/1 223/1 224/1 225/1 226/1 227/1 228/1 229/1 230/1 231/1 232/1 233/1 234/1 235/1 236/1 237/1 238/1 239/1 240/1 241/1 242/1 243/1 244/1 245/1 246/1 247/1 248/1 249/1 250/1 251/1 252/1 253/1 254/1 255/1 256/1 257/1 258/1 259/1 260/1 261/1 262/1 263/1 264/1 265/1 266/1 267/1 268/1 269/1 270/1 271/1 272/1 273/1 274/1 275/1 276/1 277/1 278/1 279/1 280/1 281/1 282/1 283/1 284/1 285/1 286/1 287/1 288/1 289/1 290/1 291/1 292/1 293/1 294/1 295/1 296/1 297/1 298/1 299/1 300/1 301/1 302/1 303/1 304/1 305/1 306/1 307/1 308/1 309/1 310/1 311/1 312/1 313/1 314/1 315/1 316/1 317/1 318/1 319/1 320/1 321/1 322/1 323/1 324/1 325/1 326/1 327/1 328/1 329/1 330/1 331/1 332/1 333/1 334/1 335/1 336/1 337/1 338/1 339/1 340/1 341/1 342/1 343/1 344/1 345/1 346/1 347/1 348/1 349/1 350/1 351/1 352/1 353/1 354/1 355/1 356/1 357/1 358/1 359/1 360/1 361/1 362/1 363/1 364/1 365/1 366/1 367/1 368/1 369/1 370/1 371/1 372/1 373/1 374/1 375/1 376/1 377/1 378/1 379/1 380/1 381/1 382/1 383/1 384/1 385/1 386/1 387/1 388/1 389/1 390/1 391/1 392/1 393/1 394/1 395/1 396/1 397/1 398/1 399/1 400/1 401/1 402/1 403/1 404/1 405/1 406/1 407/1 408/1 409/1 410/1 411/1 412/1 413/1 414/1 415/1 416/1 417/1 418/1 419/1 420/1 421/1 422/1 423/1 424/1 425/1 426/1 427/1 428/1 429/1 430/1 431/1 432/1 433/1 434/1 435/1 436/1 437/1 438/1 439/1 440/1 441/1 442/1 443/1 444/1 445/1 446/1 447/1 448/1 449/1 450/1 451/1 452/1 453/1 454/1 455/1 456/1 457/1 458/1 459/1 460/1 461/1 462/1 463/1 464/1 465/1 466/1 467/1 468/1 469/1 470/1 471/1 472/1 473/1 474/1 475/1 476/1 477/1 478/1 479/1 480/1 481/1 482/1 483/1 484/1 485/1 486/1 487/1 488/1 489/1 490/1 491/1 492/1 493/1 494/1 495/1 496/1 497/1 498/1 499/1 500/1 501/1 502/1 503/1 504/1 505/1 506/1 507/1 508/1 509/1 510/1 511/1 512/1 513/1 514/1 515/1 516/1 517/1 518/1 519/1 520/1 521/1 522/1 523/1 524/1 525/1 526/1 527/1 528/1 529/1 530/1 531/1 532/1 533/1 534/1 535/1 536/1 537/1 538/1 539/1 540/1 541/1 542/1 543/1 544/1 545/1 546/1 547/1 548/1 549/1 550/1 551/1 552/1 553/1 554/1 555/1 556/1 557/1 558/1 559/1 560/1 561/1 562/1 563/1 564/1 565/1 566/1 567/1 568/1 569/1 570/1 571/1 572/1 573/1 574/1 575/1 576/1 577/1 578/1 579/1 580/1 581/1 582/1 583/1 584/1 585/1 586/1 587/1 588/1 589/1 590/1 591/1 592/1 593/1 594/1 595/1 596/1 597/1 598/1 599/1 600/1 601/1 602/1 603/1 604/1 605/1 606/1 607/1 608/1 609/1 610/1 611/1 612/1 613/1 614/1 615/1 616/1 617/1 618/1 619/1 620/1 621/1 622/1 623/1 624/1 625/1 626/1 627/1 628/1 629/1 630/1 631/1 632/1 633/1 634/1 635/1 636/1 637/1 638/1 639/1 640/1 641/1 642/1 643/1 644/1 645/1 646/1 647/1 648/1 649/1 650/1 651/1 652/1 653/1 654/1 655/1 656/1 657/1 658/1 659/1 660/1 661/1 662/1 663/1 664/1 665/1 666/1 667/1 668/1 669/1 670/1 671/1 672/1 673/1 674/1 675/1 676/1 677/1 678/1 679/1 680/1 681/1 682/1 683/1 684/1 685/1 686/1 687/1 688/1 689/1 690/1 691/1 692/1 693/1 694/1 695/1 696/1 697/1 698/

Cambridge garden  
 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 10<sup>2</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 1895

$1\frac{1}{2}$   $2\frac{4}{8}$   $3\frac{4}{8}$   $4\frac{4}{8}$   $5\frac{4}{8}$   $6\frac{4}{8}$  1896  $20\frac{4}{8}$   $22\frac{4}{8}$  1897  $9\frac{4}{8}$   $10\frac{4}{8}$

September

~aestiva

*Dendroica aestiva*

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 10 Cambridge. - Throughout the Maple Swamp and the neighboring thickets of alders, wild roses, willows etc. Yellow Warblers were fairly swarming to-day. Indeed I must have seen fully fifty in three or four hours. All were ♂♂; the ♀♀ evidently have not yet arrived. The ♂♂ were in full song even at noon No females and were continually chasing one another, flashing from thicket to thicket like little golden snatches, occasionally rising to the upper branches of the taller maples to sing and flit from twig to twig with wide-spread tails and half opened quivering wings, evidently so full of life and careless joy that they could hardly contain themselves. I do not think they were migrating as their numbers were not above the usual summer quota of this favorite haunt of theirs.

" 16 Yellow Warblers fully as numerous in and near the Maple Swamp as on the 10<sup>th</sup> but to-day at least half of them were mated and I saw no less than four of the females Females here and nest building at work <sup>busily</sup> collecting material for their nests. The bachelors ♂♂ were incessantly trying to dispossess their more fortunate brethren and many were the fights that ensued Males fighting the birds often clinching and coming to the ground together, fluttering slowly down <sup>amid a volley</sup> ~~with a succession~~ of sharp, squeaky chirps. One round invariably decided the affair, at least for the time, and the vanquished bird immediately left the spot showing, however, no apparent dejection on his defeat.

" 27 Bolles found a nest with four eggs in the Fresh Pond Nest, 4 eggs. swamps. There is a nest in a tall white lilac behind my house but I have not examined it.

June 5 A pair in our garden built a nest in the top of a Removing nest white lilac. The ♀ sat two days then desisted (probably the House Sparrows ousted the eggs), to-day I saw her tearing the nest to pieces and using the material to build a new one in part

*Dendroica aestiva*

1889 Mass.

June 24 Cambridge. - Yellow Warblers still singing freely at all hours of the day but their songs at this season are shorter and much more listless than in early June. *Liattus song*

1890 Mass.

May 23 Cambridge. - By far the most numerous birds in the Fresh P. swamps. *First nests*

A nest nearly finished on May 13 held one egg on the 17<sup>th</sup> and five to-day. Another found to-day had four eggs. The former were <sup>almost</sup> ~~brisk~~ white before blowing; the latter clear white with a rosy tinge. *White eggs*  
The parents of both nests made a great outcry, the pair in each case coming within a few feet whispering incessantly.

June 21 Cambridge. - Saw the first young out to-day, one in my garden, another on the banks of Charles River above Waltham. *Young out.*

Sept 12 A solitary bird in my garden this morning, evidently a migrant *Boote migrant* just from the N. as none have been seen here for more than two weeks. It was very tame and appeared tired alighting once on a hunkflower and for three or four minutes remaining there perfectly still with half-closed eyes apparently dozing. Through the glass at short range I could see plainly that it was a young female of the dull greenish type which seems to occur only among these late migrants.

1891

May 23 Maryland. - A ♀ getting building material from a tent caterpillars' nest in an apple tree, extracting strands of the "bills" by tugging at them violently with half-opened wings. *I building*  
*accompanied*  
*by two*  
*husbands!*  
Two ♂♂ invariably accompanied her flights to and from her own nest keeping close to her but offering no actual assistance. They seemed to be on perfectly good terms with each other.

*Dendroica aestiva*.

1889 Mass.

June 13 Cambridge. — An adult ♂ feeding young just from the nest in the Fresh P. swamps. Heard many ♂♂ singing through the entire forenoon. ♂ feeds young still singing fully.

" 16 Weyland. Several singing in orchards. The song has now lost much of its early fervor and is comparatively short and listless.

July 2 Cambridge. — A young bird with wings & tail well grown but still in first plumage practicing singing in my garden. Song lasting for nearly an hour I heard his spattering broken warble to sing at frequent intervals. He sang quite as well as many young birds do in early September. There were others of the brood with him.

" 7 Spent the afternoon and evening in the swamps. Saw many Yellow Warblers in little family parties, both adults followed by their young which, in most cases, were getting their own food. Heard the old ♂ sing only a few times — not more than six or eight certainly. The birds about my garden have also almost entirely ceased singing. End of singing period.

" 16 A brood of young in our garden in full autumnal plumage, doubtless the same birds noted July 2. In the swamps this evening I heard an old bird sing a few times in listless tones. Young in full fall pl. Singing

1890

May 13 Cambridge. — On the 8<sup>th</sup> Mr. Denton saw a ♀ in our garden pulling out pieces from a last year's nest. This morning I found two new nests in the Maple Swamp one apparently completed, the other nearly so. Note

" 17 The nest completed on May 13 held one egg this morning. I also found two nests building. The ♀ of one was working rather steadily at 10.30. She kept turning around in the nest and drawing in the fibres one the edge from the outside.

L. auduboni, etc.,

*Dendroica aestiva*

1862.

May 22 Concord. During the past violent storm and more or less also today the Yellow Warblers, Least Flycatchers, Canadian Warblers, Warbling Vireos and a few other small insectivorous birds have congregated in sheltered places along the river and resorted to catching flies just above the surface of the water or to picking insects from the half-submerged grass stems pushing on snags or low bushes. In some cases I have seen them thus engaged along windy, exposed shores with their plumage drenched and bedraggled by the heavy rain. They have evidently been hard pressed.

Aug. 13 Yellow Warblers still give the piping, midsummer song at all hours, but I think that most of them have already migrated.

*Dendroica aestiva.*

1894 Cambridge, Mass

I saw my first Yellow Warbler this year in our garden April 28<sup>th</sup> - a male bird in full song. On the same date a pair of Foxes noted the arrival of the species at Ashington where he heard two birds singing. On the 28<sup>th</sup> I found one at Concord, in our garden. I am convinced (by several little bits of circumstantial evidence) that the bird which came to us on the 28<sup>th</sup> has remained in the garden during May and June and furthermore that he is the same bird who has been here for three or four years past.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> (I was absent from Cambridge May 2-7) I found that my bird had been joined by his mate and only a few days later (unfortunately I neglected to note the exact date) the female began building in a lilac directly over the path between the house & museum. The nest was completed in about four days. I watched its construction pretty closely and after it was finished a female Cow-bird hung about it for a couple of days. The Warblers chirped at no both and on or both of us doubtless alarmed them. Immediately after its completion the <sup>nest</sup> had been begun on the third after its completion the ♀ Warbler began tearing it to pieces which she carried off to a pear tree where she made them into a new nest. Within two days she had removed every vestige of the first nest and the second was apparently finished. Two years ago a Yellow Warbler's nest built <sup>precisely the same thing</sup> happened in this same cluster of lilacs was moved in a precisely similar way & I cannot doubt, by the same pair of birds.

This year the birds reared their young successfully. The young left the nest June 12<sup>th</sup> and by July 3 (when I returned from an absence of two weeks) they were in full autumn plumage and the males were singing <sup>series of</sup> ~~not~~ the song of the adults of course but a low, warbling, disconnected notes. Both parents were with them on this date & the old male was singing



Dendroica aestiva.

Brewer, Maine.

Catching ants.

1898.           The other day my son was a good deal puzzled by the ac-  
June.           tions of a Summer Warbler (D.aestiva) which was acting singu-  
larly on the concrete walk in our flower garden. He finally  
found that the small ants were coming out of the cracks in  
the concrete and the bird was catching them. To do this he  
would alight and spread his tail so that it extended on one  
side of him and ahead of the ants, <sup>then</sup> drawing it forward with a  
quick jerk he would sweep the ants close to his bill and  
catch them. Walter saw them do this a good many times. It  
is something new to me but may be old news to you.

Copied from a letter to Wm. Brewster ~~from~~

Manly Hardy, dated, Brewer, Maine, June 30th, 1898.

Notes on Birds of Grand Banks.  
R. L. Newcomb. - 1878.

[ On

August 31, when eighty-two miles from land, a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) alighted on the vessel, but soon flew away in the direction of the land, this making two specimens of this species that visited the vessel when out of sight of land.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1878, p. 128

Notes on Birds of Grand Banks.  
R. L. Newcomb. - 1878.

Sept 8, (1878): / This afternoon a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) came aboard, but soon flew away.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1878, p. 128

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

16. *Dendroica aestiva* (Gmel.) Bd. YELLOW WARBLER. — Rather common at Fort Fairfield. Not met with at Grand Falls.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

12. *Dendroica aestiva*. SUMMER WARBLER. — Not very common.  
First seen June 6, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 234

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.  
May 25, 1886. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Summer Warbler, scarce.

O. & O. XI, May, 1886, p. 75

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by  
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1886, Montreal, Can.

Aug. 9. | Summer Warbler. |

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region  
Cape Breton Id., N. S. J. Dwight, Jr.

48. *Dendroica aestiva*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazar.

*Dendroica aestiva*, Yellow Warbler. One seen on June 4th at Kegaska, another in August at same place.

O. & O. XII. Mar. 1887, p. 34.

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings  
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*). June 5,  
7, 10, 11.

O. & O. XIII. Mar. 1888 p. 45

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Alberger.

652. Summer Yellow Bird. Common.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 88

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,  
Nipissing District, Ontario.  
by Frederick C. Hubel, Auk, x x iv. Jan 1907, p. 52

56. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.— Four single individuals met with the latter part of July.

Bird of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Bird.  
Auk, x x iv. Jan. 1907, p. 83.

246. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.— Regular summer resident, abundant May 2 to July 19 (May 4 to September 9, 1906); earliest spring record April 18, 1899; latest fall record September 16, 1899 (J. Hughes Samuel); breeds abundantly (May 23 to June 12).

*Dendroica aestiva*

1896

Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 8

Isle au Haut.. A ♂ singing in a thicket of alders near the shore at the N.E. end of the island. He "scrapped" him out & I had a good view of him at 12 or 15 feet

" 16

Brooksville.. Common in gardens & orchards in the village & actually abundant in thickets about the shores of Wood's Pond. I did not find the species in Sedgwick but it doubtless occurs there.

Deer Island. R. W. Knight has a nest & set of 5 eggs taken in an alder swamp near his house which almost certainly belonged to this species although it was not identified.

" 18

Deer Island. Heard a male singing fluently this afternoon among alders near the former landing at Green's Landing

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F.H.O.

20. *Dendroica aestiva*, (Yellow Warbler). This lovely Warbler was found in nearly all portions of the counties. It preferred the vicinity of habitations, and was not observed at all in the ever-green forests. Its nidification was twice observed at Kingfield, the nests in each instance being placed in a crab apple tree.

O. & O. XI. Sep. 1886. p. 129

652. Yellow Warbler. Common at Boothbay in the open bushes.

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N. H. June 27, '92  
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N. H.  
Yellow Warbler, one pair seen by the  
brook.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

48. *Dendroica aestiva*. SUMMER YELLOW-BIRD.—Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 150

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N. H. July-August, 1874. J. A. Allen

36. *Dendroica aestiva*. Frequent.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 154

*Dendroica aestiva*. Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1865.

*Dendroica aestiva*. Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

15. *Dendroica aestiva*. Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1886.

4. *Dendroica aestiva*. Wolfeboro, N. H. June 17-1887.

5. *Dendroica aestiva*. Wolfeboro, N. H. June 18-1889.

5. *Dendroica aestiva*. Two 88 singers in thorn

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

59. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Rare.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 152

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.  
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F. H. Allen

*Dendroica aestiva*.—Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

57. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Common along the wil-  
lowed shores of streams near the village. Seldom observed elsewhere.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 45

Colebrook, N. H.

1895.

Dendroica aestiva

June 14. Two birds singing in village  
in thickets on river banks.

(I did not find this species at  
Bath Abbey this year nor did  
I note it to-day in driving  
from Ballin to Colebrook.

59. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Not uncommon in the valley.





Sept 1, Has not all the A.M. but saw the same  
" " " " " "  
" " " " " "

E. Mass. 1885. *to* *20 yrs. 1894*  
 48. *South-east Atlantic* June 12, 16, 20, July 17  
 Brimston & No. Rutland, Mass. 18, 19 1886.  
 2. *Endorsement* *to* *see v. perhaps 3 & 4*  
 - Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.  
 " *W. 1888* *to* *see ground beyond*  
 Falmouth, Mass. 1889.  
 1888. 28  
 ground was within Aug. 32 Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

1887 Cambridge, Mass.

May 3. A ♂ singing in our garden  
 " 5. Several noted to-day.

Dend. aestivalis.

*Mass. (near Concord).*

1887

May  $8^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $9^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $10^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $11^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $12^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $16^{\frac{10}{8}}$  -  $17^{\frac{20}{8}}$  -  $23^{\frac{6}{8}}$  -  $26^{\frac{2}{8}}$   
 June  $2^{\frac{10}{8}}$  -  $3^{\frac{10}{8}}$  -  $4^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $6^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $7^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $16^{\frac{6}{8}}$  -  $17^{\frac{10}{8}}$  -  $19^{\frac{2}{8}}$   
 July  $4^{\frac{2}{8}}$  -  $7^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $10^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $11^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $23^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $24^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $31^{\frac{2}{8}}$   
 Aug.  $8^{\frac{2}{8}}$  -  $9^{\frac{2}{8}}$  -  $10^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $13^{\frac{4}{8}}$  -  $17^{\frac{4}{8}}$

*Dendroica aestiva*

\* singing. # young out of nest.

Mass. (Winchendon)

1887

Mr. Bailey says it occurs in small numbers.

Dendroica aestiva

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1888

May 1<sup>st</sup> Cambridge

Dendroica aestiva

1888

Dendroica aestiva

Wellesley, Mass.

May 6. 1<sup>st</sup> heard. 9. 1 11. 2 12. 1 13. 2 14. 1 27. 14 <sup>seen building</sup>

June 4. 1 2

1889. May. 7. 1 9. 2 ♂ & ♀ 10. 2 <sup>first</sup> abundant. 26. 5992

S. W. Denton.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Dendroica aestiva

One at West Townsend on the outskirts of the village;  
another at Ashby in the middle of the village; no others seen during our stay in this region.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

61. *Dendroica aestiva*.

Ank, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

52. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER. Seen only near the village of North Adams. But it must be borne in mind that I spent very little time in the lower country of Northern Berkshire.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 103

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Dendroica aestiva* (Gmel.) Yellow Warbler.  
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 141

Arrivals. - May 13

Yellow Warblers appeared at  
Dorchester Mass.  
O. & O. VIII, June, 1883. p. 42.

1895 Falmouth, Mass.

July 12<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>2 ad</sup> 15<sup>2 juv</sup> 16<sup>3</sup> 17<sup>2 juv</sup> 20<sup>2 ad 1 juv</sup>  
 .. 23<sup>1 juv</sup> 24<sup>1 juv</sup> 25<sup>2 juv</sup> 27<sup>1 juv</sup> 29<sup>2 juv</sup>

Aug. 3<sup>1 juv</sup>

July 25. Two young in full arctura plumage  
 alighted on a broad wooden plank fence in  
 front of the barn and hopped and flitted about  
 chasing small flies. One advanced quite to the  
 chicken house & perched on the eaves. These  
 young Yellow Warblers are remarkably gentle  
 looking little creatures, very playful with one  
 chasing one another about a great deal &  
 chirping softly.

Dendroica aestiva

Fresh Pond Cambridge, Mass.

Yellow Warbler

nest 6 eggs found in

Fred P. Mearns by

[o.c.] Brewster's friend Hatcher  
 in Spring 1898.

1901.

Dendroica aestiva

Rancaster, Mass.

June 5 nest in Spiraea salicifolia in Corn  
 near country. 2 fresh eggs

.. 6, the nest in country Corn held 3 eggs  
 this morning.

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County,  
 Massachusetts.

Dendroica aestiva. A single bird was heard singing on Mt. Greylock  
 at 2500 feet elevation.

Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., Longwood, Mass.

Dendroica aestivaJune 3<sup>rd</sup> 98

Fairfield

" 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> } Saybrook" 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> }" 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> }" 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> } Andover

About as numerous as in E. Mass.  
and of similar local distribution, being  
confined to cultivated shrubbery, in the village,  
apple-orchards about farms, thickets of  
bushes and grassy fields around the houses  
of the river marshes and bush groves  
found here in the marsh islands near  
the coast of the Sound & Saybrook.  
At Andover they were also numerous  
among the alder thickets that lined the  
banks of the river.

On the marsh island near the Sound the song  
distinct in tone, for the bird's description being  
a wild, rising quality, recalling that of the  
Water Thrush. In our undisturbed (heard June 3)  
the note flew to the top of the tree. The  
note was very clear. The song of the village  
birds was much in most cases.

Bds. Obs. at Little and Great Gull Islands, N. Y. Aug. '88 B.H. Dutch, r.

21. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Standing on the concrete at the foot of the tower on foggy nights and looking upward, we could see around the lantern a broad halo of light, probably one hundred feet in diameter. Outside of this halo was total darkness. This phenomenon, I presume, was caused by the reflection and refraction of the light by the minute particles of water in the vicinity of the lantern; and the darkness beyond was due to the fact that very little, if any, of the small portion of light that penetrated beyond the fifty-foot limit reached the eye. The migration, which had just begun when I arrived, could be splendidly observed by means of this patch of light. The birds could be seen flying to and fro in all directions, generally keeping within the ring, as if reluctant to leave the region of light and go into the darkness beyond. Although it would be an easy thing to distinguish the different families from each other in the strong light of the lantern, it would take a good deal of practice to tell the species apart. One species, however, was easily distinguishable as the birds flew back and forth,—the Yellow Warbler. It was, indeed, a pretty sight to see these birds flitting around, their yellow breasts and bellies illumined by the rays from the lantern. I identified but one other species in the halo, the Redstart. Chas. B. Field said, however, that he could sometimes in the migrations distinguish Robins and Catbirds. He also remarked that in the fall migration all the birds struck on the W. S. W. side of the lantern, instead of on the E. N. E., as it might be supposed they would. All the birds that were picked up from the concrete were also on the W. S. W. side of the tower, showing that they very probably struck on that side. In the morning after every cloudy night, various Warblers, that had either been weakened by striking and had not the strength to go on, or had been caught by daylight and stopped to feed, would be seen flying around the shores of the island. Three species were thus observed, Black-and-white Warblers, Yellow Warblers, and Redstarts, of which the second species was most common. In fact the Yellow Warblers were seen on both Great Gull and Little Gull Islands. But few birds of any kind struck during my stay, probably because, although a number of the nights were foggy, none were stormy.

Ank, VI. April, 1889. n. 130-131.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
O.H. Merriam.

24. *Dendroica aestiva* (Gmelin) Baird. SUMMER YELLOW-BIRD. — Breeds, but not very common.

Bull. N.O.C. 8, Oct, 1881, p. 227

Birds observed in Naval Hospital  
Grounds, Brooklyn, G.H. Coues

30. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER. — Common; breeds.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 4, *Dendroica aestiva*, (652). Yellow Warbler.

Q. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Grand Crossing (Illinois)

*Dendroica aestiva*

1887  
Spring of

Abnormal plumage.

Specimen in coll. Geo. F. Morcom taken  
& sent to me for exam. By Dr. Jos. L. Hancock  
June 1888. Not sexed. but probably ♂.

Above grayish olive tinged with greenish on  
sides of head,  
nape, <sup>capulars</sup>, & rump, with <sup>hale</sup> yellow on  
crown; wing bands & outer edges of tertials  
grayish white; throat, breast, & flanks  
soiled white slightly tinged with yellow;  
abdomen crissum & under tl. coverts  
decided but dull greenish yellow; breast &  
sides ~~streaked~~ with chestnut streaking of

normal color & eyebrow, tail  
markings normal.



*Dendroica aestiva*. SUMMER WARBLER.

Sings from its arrival in late April through July, but usually with diminished frequency toward the end of the month, although in some years it continues in full song nearly until mid-August. Ordinarily singing ceases in the second week of August; rarely earlier, but sometimes later. Extreme dates are August 4, 5, and 9, and August 18 and 19. This is the season of the bird's departure. *Auk*, I, July, 1884, p. 212.

MASS. (Middlesex Co.)

*Dendroica aestiva*.

1885.

June 27 Walking in our garden (Cambridge) yesterday afternoon my attention was attracted by a song unlike anything I had ever previously heard. It was a succession of eight or ten feeble notes, given rapidly, the whole forming a hurried warble which was not only wholly devoid of melody but even seemed to produce a disagreeable sensation on the ear of the listener. After a short search I discovered the musician which, to my surprise, turned out to be a female *Dendroica aestiva*.

Birds of Western North Carolina.  
William Brewster.

*Correspondence*

70. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Abundant everywhere below 2800 feet, especially in willows and sycamores along the banks of streams. Throughout the region its song was very different from that of our northern bird and bore a much closer resemblance to the song of the Nashville Warbler, for which, indeed, I at first mistook it.

*Auk*, 3, April, 1886, p. 173 174.

Mass. (Concord)

*Dendroica aestiva*

1887

Young bird singing

July 20 At Mount saw a young ♂ in full plumage singing. It warbled a low broken strain very like that of a young Song Sparrow. I am sure it was a young bird. Adult ♂ also singing in same place

to incessant singing, I think the Yellow Warbler deserves the laurels. All day long, or nearly so, it keeps up its pleasing tune at the rate on an average of six vocal performances every minute. I have had opportunity lately to notice the singing of an individual Yellow Warbler and I find that every ten seconds, on an average, he rolls out his ditty without the day. Now supposing he begins at five him to begin at 4 p.m. We will allow it and the same time we will also give him a hour's resting spell moon. (But let me n him to sing at all him to take a mid- with these generous esult? Why, during lay he has sung us ill are the same to be leasing for all that. of birds is a most ne to me.

Medina, N.Y. O. & O. XIV. Aug. 1889 p. 59

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1887

Young bird

July 20 At Mount Sun-  
giving. It warbled  
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and here it was a y.  
singing in same

As to incessant singing, I think the Yellow Warbler deserves the laurels. All day long, or nearly so, it keeps up its pleasing tune at the rate on an average of six vocal performances every minute. I have had opportunity lately to notice the singing of an individual Yellow Warbler and I find that every ten seconds, on an average, he rolls out his ditty; and he keeps it up throughout the day. Now let us figure on this. Supposing he begins at 6 A.M. (and I have known him to begin at 4 o'clock) and sings until 7 P.M. We will allow him one hour for breakfast and the same time for dinner and supper and we will also give him a generous allowance of an hour's resting spell in the middle of the afternoon. (But let me say here that I have known him to sing at all his meals and never knew him to take a mid-afternoon rest.) But with these generous allowances, what is the result? Why, during the lapse of one short day he has sung us 3,240 little songs. They all are the same to be sure, but none the less pleasing for all that. The study of the notes of birds is a most pleasing and instructive one to me.

Neil F. Posson, Jr.  
Medina, N.Y. O. & O. XIV, Aug. 1889 p.

*Dendroica aestiva*. SUMMER WARBLER.

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I was one of the first to see  
the fact that the warbler  
accompanied by the male,  
a particularly handsome specimen,  
this morning he was singing  
again in the same place.  
Upon approaching I happened  
near some shrubbery and  
soon found our party in a  
place here. He could fly a  
little way and when startled  
redoubled his singing which  
at once brought both parties  
back to the spot. As soon  
as I retired, however, the  
female mounted to the top  
of a pine tree and began  
singing again. I noticed  
that her note was much  
more rapid and less  
than the other I was near  
the young.

Birds of Western North Carolina.  
William Brewster.

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*Ank.* 3, April, 1886. p. 173-174.

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Mass. (Concord)

1887

July 20

*Dendroica aestiva*

Young bird singing

At sunset saw a young ♂ in full plumage  
singing. It warbled a low broken strain  
very like that of a young song sparrow. I  
am sure it was a young bird. Adult ♂ also  
singing in same tree

As  
to incessant singing, I think the Yellow  
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seconds, on an average, he rolls out his ditty;  
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on him to begin at 4  
p.m. We will allow  
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we will also give him  
a hour's resting spell  
noon. (But let me  
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of birds is a most  
ne to me.

## A Four-Storied Nest.

At a meeting of the London Ornithological Section of the Entomological Society of Ontario, Mr. J. Osborn exhibited a four-storied nest of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*), which he had recently taken near London. In the lower story a Cowbird's egg had been laid, then the second story was put on and another Cowbird's egg laid, a third story added and a third Cowbird's egg laid in it, and in the fourth story were two eggs of the Warbler herself.

Mr. H. Stevenson reported a nest of the same species, seven inches deep outside, which had the appearance of having been built in different seasons, but the nest was unfortunately lost on the drive in from the country.

Other members of the section reported having found nests of the Yellow Warbler with a single Cowbird's egg partly buried in the floor of the nest so that it would not hatch. In one instance the young were hatched and the Cowbird's egg rotten when found.

D. Arnott.

1890, p. 98.

It was placed in low thick bushes, about two and one-half feet from the ground. I saw the parent bird ship, noiselessly from the nest as I approached it, and she at once took herself into some thick bushes on the other side of a small stream near which the nest was placed. I stood back and watched her return.

CO. DNY

[1881-1900]

another nest on the top of these eggs; but after laying two eggs another egg of the Cowbird was left in her care. Still being determined not to be the foster mother to these strangers, she added another story to her already large nest. After laying three eggs her nest was again visited by the Cowbird and two eggs left there. Her little heart failed her this time and she submitted to what seemed to her to be inevitable and commenced incubation. I had not the heart to take her nest at this time. In due course the young were hatched and to my surprise the Cowbirds were the first to see light, and they formed quite a nest full of themselves. But when the young warblers were hatched, I unceremoniously tumbled the Cowbirds out. The old birds did not seem much pleased with my actions. Still as I from a child always took the part of the weak side I felt as if I had done my duty. When the young had flown I scoured the nest together with the eggs in the two lower stories of this queer house, and it is now in my possession. These eggs were still as fresh as if just laid. A friend of mine took a nest of the same bird in Worcester, Mass., in 1872, of two stories.—Chas. T. Morrison, Fort McKinney, Wyoming Territory.

O. & O. IX, Oct. 1884, p. 24

## Large Set of Eggs of the Yellow Warbler.

BY T. W. GLOVER, WHITMAN, MASS.

Thinking that the nesting of a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) the set of which contained six eggs of that bird and one of the Cow Bunting may be of some interest to the readers of the O. & O. I submit the following:

On May 16th, 1888, while searching for birds in a small bit of swamp on the shore of a pond, I found the nest of a Yellow Warbler about one half done, the bird being busy at work. On the 19th I visited the nest again, and found it completed and it contained an egg of the Cow Bunting. Thinking that the Warbler might build a new bottom to the nest, leaving the Cowbird's egg below, I went again on the 20th and found an egg of the Warbler with the

Bunting's egg. On the 21st the nest contained two eggs of the Warbler. I next visited the nest on the 25th and found it contained five eggs of the Warbler, and on the 26th I found the nest to contain six eggs of the Warbler and the old bird sitting.

I then took them. The coloring is substantially the same in the six eggs, and as six days were consumed in depositing the six eggs I think there can be no doubt about their belonging to the same bird.

The lower part of the nest was composed of the cotton waste, probably from some of the factories near by. The remainder was of grasses and plant down. It was about six feet from the ground.

O. & O. XIII, Sept. 1888 p. 134

## Brief Notes.

One day in early June, 1891, while I was searching a small swamp near here, I discovered a nest of the Summer Warbler. The nest was situated in a fork formed by four upright twigs. After watching a few moments I noticed the constructors of this little gem busily engaged in patting on the finishing touches.

Three days later I returned in hopes of finding the eggs but I saw neither the eggs nor the birds; I went away disappointed but returned a week later, hoping that the eggs had been laid. Judge of my surprise then, to see a Red-winged Blackbird's nest built in the same fork. The nest which contained three eggs was built directly over the Warbler's little house; the side of one being interwoven with that of the other.

Undoubtedly the Blackbird, with superior size and strength, had driven the occupants of this little summer home away, selfishly appropriating this favored site to themselves.

R. H. White, Jr.

Chestnut Hill, Mass.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 96

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OLOGIST

[Vol. 9—No. 10

### Yellow Warbler vs. Cowbird.

In the O. and O. of March, (Vol. ix, page 34,) Mr. C. R. Keyes mentions having found a Scarlet Tanager's (*P. rubra*) nest with a Cowbird's (*M. Pecoris*) egg embedded in the bottom. This recalls to mind a Yellow Warbler's (*D. aestiva*) nest found by me at Fort Laramie in 1880, which shows how persistent these birds are sometimes in trying to evade hatching the eggs of the Cowbird; but in this case the *pecoris* got the better of the *aestiva* in the end. The nest was placed in a rose-bush, when, after laying one egg, two Cowbird's eggs were deposited in it. The *aestiva* immediately went to work and built another nest on the top of these eggs; but after laying two eggs another egg of the Cowbird was left in her care. Still being determined not to be the foster mother to these strangers, she added another story to her already large nest. After laying three eggs her nest was again visited by the Cowbird and two eggs left there. Her little heart failed her this time and she submitted to what seemed to her to be inevitable and commenced incubation. I had not the heart to take her nest at this time. In due course the young were hatched and to my surprise the Cowbirds were the first to see light, and they formed quite a nest full of themselves. But when the young warblers were hatched, I unceremoniously tumbled the Cowbirds out. The old birds did not seem much pleased with my actions. Still as I from a child always took the part of the weak side I felt as if I had done my duty. When the young had flown I secured the nest together with the eggs in the two lower stories of this queer house, and it is now in my possession. These eggs were still as fresh as if just laid. A friend of mine took a nest of the same bird in Worcester, Mass., in 1872, of two stories.—Chas. T. Morrison, Fort McKinney, Wyoming Territory.

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O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 96

Dendroica aestiva  
Cambridge Mass. maple Swamp  
nest with 6 eggs. June 6, 1898  
A. Hathaway.

1884

June 23 In our garden in Cambridge this evening I saw an adult ♂ apparently feeding on the ground. He hopped about very like a Sparrow (indeed I was surprised to see how closely his motions resembled those of a Song Sparrow feeding on the same plot) but his motions were somewhat more animated. He seemed rather at home on tree ferns and remained there for several minutes. Lamb tells me that he has young on wing to-day.

A SUMMER YELLOW-BIRD FEEDS A YOUNG ROBIN.—To-day I saw a summer Yellow-bird flitting among some locust trees, with a large worm in his beak. I followed him up until I saw him go to a locust tree where a young Robin was perched. He fed it just the same as its mother would, and went after another worm. He fed it quite a good while, and then sat on the same limb the young Robin was on. When he caught an insect he would always feed the robin. I do not see how the Robin could eat so much. I watched them quite a good while, until I got tired, and left them both perched on the same limb.—J. P. Loos, Hagerstown, Md.

O. & O. IX, July, 1884, p. 90.

- Young Oologist, 1542. A Five-story Nest of the Summer Yellow-bird. By W. L. Scott. *Ank.* VII, Jan. 1890, p. 82.  
*Ibid.*, p. 120.  
 Young Ool. 1529. The Summer Yellowbird and Cowbird Again. By E[d.] S. B[lowman]. *Ibid.*, No. 4, Aug., 1884, p. 53. Notes a double nest of Vireo, containing two Cowbird's eggs. *Ank.* VII, Jan. 1890, p. 81.  
 Young Oologist, 1537. A Four-story Nest of the Summer Yellowbird. By L[ewis] H. *Ank.* VII, Jan. 1890, p. 82.  
 A[dams]. *Ibid.*, p. 107.

caerulescens



Dendroica caerulescens.

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

Nest.

1894.           Hearing a Black-throated Blue Warbler (by the roadside  
June 25. near the bridge this morning) sing a number of times in the  
same place behind me I went to the spot and almost immediately  
saw the nest which was placed just 11 1/2 inches above the  
ground near the top of a little spruce sapling which stood alone  
in a small opening surrounded by young spruces, maples  
and birches on a knoll near the road. There were three young  
birds fully feathered and about to leave and (as I afterwards  
ascertained) an addled egg. The female <sup>parent</sup> was perched in a  
crouching posture just above the nest and remained thus, perfectly  
immoveable, for a minute or more when I stepped forward and  
startled her. She and the male then came flitting about me  
chirping exactly like Snow-birds. In the afternoon when I  
took Faxon to see this nest we found that one of the young  
had gone. The other two were missing on the morning of the  
27th but the old male was still singing fitfully near the  
nest.

June 27.       We visited the Black-throated Blue Warbler's nest which  
I found on the 25th and took it. The young had all departed  
but the male parent sang a few times near by. An addled egg  
lay in the bottom of the nest which was thoroughly soaked by  
the recent rains. I took both nest and egg.

*Dendroica caerulescens*

1904 Mass.

June 28

Glendale. The typical song of this species is notorious for its wheezy, burring tones and slow, drawling manner of delivery. Wholly lacking in both these qualities, however, was the song of a bird that I heard (and also saw at close range) among some hemlocks here this morning. It consisted of four notes, full and positively sweet in tone and uttered rather rapidly and very smoothly. The time occupied by their delivery was regularly about one and one quarter seconds. The first three notes were all on the same key; the fourth was higher pitched. In general terms I should characterize this song as highly and really very pretty. I noted it thus: twice-twice-twice-twice. It reminded me slightly of the song of *D. virens* but the bird's voice was even more pleasing than that of the Black-throated Green Warbler.

An abnormally sweet & pleasing singer.

1906

June 27

Glendale. - Again I hear in my friend French's hemlocks a song of the Black-throated Blue Warbler really musical in quality and almost wholly lacking the burring tones so characteristic of the usual song of an *Opus*. It differs widely in form, however, from the song heard here in 1904. I noted it thus: tree-e-e-e-e-e-e. Last evening a bird singing in the same woods uttered only a peculiarly harsh, burry zee-zee-e. I wonder if he could have been the same as the bird heard this morning.

Another bird with musical voice

Sept 17

Glendale. - A bird, apparently adult, gave the normal drawling Spring song five or six times this morning (about 9 o'clock) in the woods behind the French's house. Its notes were fairly loud and strong but rather huskier than in Spring.

Nearly full song in autumn.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
Batchelder.

17. *Dendroica caerulescens* (Linn.) Bd. BLACK-THROATED BLUE  
WARBLER.—Rather common at Fort Fairfield. At Grand Falls it was  
common in hard woods where the underbrush was thick.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Alberger.

654. Black-throated Blue Warbler. Toler-  
ably common.

O. S. O. XV, June, 1890, p. 88

Dwight's Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—A few  
were detected at Souris. I did not see such extensive hard-wood timber  
anywhere else on the island, and as the species has a decided preference  
for such localities, its absence elsewhere is perhaps not to be wondered at.

Auk X, Jan., 1893, p. 13

General Notes.

*Addition to the list of summer birds of the Bras d'Or  
region.*  
Notes on Cape Breton Summer Birds.  
Francis H. Allen.

*Dendroica caerulescens*, one individual of which he found near Baddeck.

Auk XII, Jan. 1895 p. 89

*Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,  
Mississauga District, Ontario,  
by Frederick C. Hubel. Auk, XXIV, Jan 1907, p. 52.*

57. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—  
Fairly common during the latter part of July, more so in August.

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,  
by James H. Fleming.  
Part II, Land Birds.  
Auk, XXIV Jan. 1907, p. 83.*

247. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—  
Regular migrant, abundant May 8 to 24, and August 28 to September 29;  
earliest spring record May 2, 1900; latest fall record October 5, 1895 (J.  
Hughes Samuel).

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. O.

21. *Dendroica caerulescens*, (Black-throated Blue Warbler). I had fully expected to find this species one of the most abundant Warblers of the region but such was not the case. Only three instances of positive identification was recorded, these being a pair breeding on Mt. Bigelow, a male secured at Jerusalem and a young male seen at Stratton. I thought I detected the notes of this bird while walking along the "tote" road from Smith's farm to Tim Pond, but am not positive. The nest of this species found at Mt. Bigelow was placed in the forks of a bush of the mountain blueberry, scarcely raised from the ground; both birds were at work upon it, giving it the finishing touches of a master hand, or bill.

O. & O. XI. Sep. 1886. p. 129

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Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1-12-1867.

*Dendroica caerulescens*. - Shot a juv. in first plumage, Aug 7.

*Dendroica caerulescens*. - <sup>with young</sup> July 31 Profile House N. H. July 27-Aug. 7. 1886  
Belburn, N. H.

*Dendroica caerulescens*

1884.

July.

Apparently rare. We met with it only twice on July 17 when I killed an adult ♂ in rather worn breeding dress and again on the 28<sup>th</sup> when I found a ♀ feeding a brood of young so small that they could not have been more than a day or two from the nest. They were scattered about on the ground along a steep hill-side densely-headed by hemlocks.

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,  
White Mts. A.P. Chadbourne

30. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. - Not uncommon at the base, and as high as the second mile post of the carriage road. Was not found above this.

Auk, 4, April 1887. p. 103

B's. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N.H. July-August, 1874. J.A. Allen

35. *Dendroica caerulescens*. Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

60. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER —  
Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.153

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H.  
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

49. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. —  
Rare. One seen.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Gregory Poiré, N.H.

Dendroica caerulescens in New Hampshire in  
November.

220 Myrtle St.

Manchester, N.H.

Nov. 4th, 1902.

Dear Mr. Deane,

We have a note which may be of interest to you. On Oct. 25th Mrs. Batchelder saw in our apple trees two apparently immature male Dendroica caerulescens. She could hardly believe her eyes, and I could hardly believe her. Another member of the family saw one bathing the next day. On Nov. 1st I saw an adult male and to-day there is one flitting about the apple trees again. I think there is a second, but am not absolutely certain. The one I have seen is an elegant fellow, perfectly characteristic, and I have examined him with opera glass at less than 15 ft. distance.

Is not this unusual for November?

Yours-

F.W. Batchelder.

(copy of letter on file).

Dendroica caerulescens in New Hampshire on Nov.7, 1902.

220 Myrtle St.,

Manchester, N.H.

Nov.13, 1902.

Dear Mr.Deane,

Letter rec'd. Thanks. I have an addition to make to note on Dendr.caer. Same remained on our grounds till Nov.7th, the one seen on that day being a fine adult male. A friend brought me the same day a description of what she at first took to be a nuthatch but after examination decided was not. The descr. was perfect for the warbler in question. This was in quite in another part of the city. x x x x .

F.W.Batchelder.

(copy of postal on file).



60. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—  
Very common on the lower slopes of the mountain from the base to  
about 2000 feet. They inhabit the more open deciduous woods, the  
males singing most frequently about the openings where a few trees  
have been cut out, and sprouts and fallen logs cover the ground. I  
started a female from a little bush on the edge of a clearing, where she  
had commenced to build her nest, a foot above the ground.

, 344.

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.  
William Brewster.

*Dendroica cærulescens*.—The only Black-throated Blue Warbler met with during either year was a male shot June 17, 1888. This bird was singing steadily in a dense growth of young hemlocks on a hillside. As there were no beds of yew (the favorite nesting place of this species) in the neighborhood, and as we had passed several previous mornings in the same woods without hearing the bird, it is probable that he had strayed some distance away from his mate and nest, or that he was a bachelor wandering aimlessly about the country.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p.391

*Black-throated Blue Warbler*. Winchendon.

May 11. Saw a pair and shot the ♂. They were on  
ball muskeet out foot of Decatur Hill.  
May 13. Shot ♂ in swamp back of Waban Cottage  
It kept close to the ground after lighting upon it.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

*Dendroica*  
62. " *cærulescens*. \* Not common

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p.389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

58. *Dendroica cærulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Common on the Taconic Mts. from their base to summit. Wherever the mountain sides presented a fine growth of maple, chestnut, etc., with a dense under-growth of mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), the drawing notes of this bird were sure to be heard. Indeed I have nowhere found them more abundant than here. They are equally common in similar places in the northwestern part of Connecticut.

Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p.45

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

53. *Dendroica cærulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Quite common on the mountains up to at least 3000 feet. Prefers woods with a good share of deciduous trees, maple, birch, beech, oak, etc. Among the innumerable specimens seen, but two were females.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p.103

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

May 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>

\* *Dendroica carolinensis*.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Dendroica carolinensis*

W. Townsend, Ashby, Fitchburg. Two ♂♂ in Fitchburg, one each in W. Townsend  
and Ashby singing in deep shady glens among *Rubus* later glens in  
the lower valleys not far from Mt. Watatic or in the glens near  
where you grow.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.  
June 25-30, 1889.

*Dendroica carolinensis*

West Townsend, Ashby, Framingham--- A male heard June  
25th in thickets of laurel near West Townsend, another June 29th  
in a deep glen, also among laurel, near Ashby; two July 1st about  
three miles north of ~~Framingham~~ <sup>Fitchburg</sup> in low lying dark woods where the  
undergrowth was wholly of laurel. We searched for the species in  
vain on and near Mt Watatic.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*)  
**Nesting in Sterling, Massachusetts.**—I have been collecting about Lancaster, Mass., since 1897 and I have never found but one Black-throated Blue Warbler's nest until today.

My friend Mr. Herbert Parker told me he had found what he was sure was a Black-throated Blue's nest, in Sterling, which is the next town to Lancaster, about due west. I went with him the next day (May 28, 1911) and found the nest with the female on it. She glided off and I shot her, to be absolutely sure about the identity. The nest was placed in a laurel bush (*Kalmia latifolia*) about eleven inches from the ground and contained four fresh eggs. It was a typical nest of this species, lined with the dark fibres that are usually used.

Later in the day we found another nest, in a laurel bush, about two feet from the ground. It contained four eggs slightly incubated. As the female was very tame and gave us every opportunity to identify her, I did n't shoot her, as it seemed unnecessary; especially as I had collected the parent bird with the first set.

I located another pair in this same wood, but failed to find their nest.—  
JOHN E. THAYER, Lancaster, Mass. *Arch. XXVIII July 1911, p. 371, 372.*

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

*Dendroica dominica*. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.—This very rare specimen is a male, and was shot by Mr. Akhurst in the same locality in which he secured the Cerulean Warbler. It is the only one he ever saw on Long Island.

Auk X. July. 1893 p 277.

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.,  
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) region  
*Dendroica caerulescens*, is found breeding.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 10, *Dendroica caerulescens*, (654). Black-throated Blue Warbler.

O. & O. XI, July. 1886. p. 109

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

25. *Dendroica caerulescens* (Linn.) Baird. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—Common summer resident, usually breeding in hard timber. Have found it in all parts of the woods.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 227

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the  
Northern Adirondacks [Albany], New York [1901].

May 10 to 15.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Not common.

J. A. Shufeldt, Brooklyn, Pa.

ALBANY, N. Y., JAN. 1, 1902.

**Birds of Western North Carolina.**  
**William Brewster.**

71. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—I heard the first Black-throated Blue Warbler on the crest of the Cowee Mountains, but at the time supposed it to be a belated migrant. On the following day, however, others were met with at Cullasaja Falls, and along the road between that point and Highlands many were seen or heard. In the neighborhood of Highlands they were everywhere numerous, and in the extensive rhododendron swamps, literally swarming and evidently settled for the season, if not actually breeding. Mr. Boynton tells me that he regularly hears them singing in these swamps through June and July, but he has never found the nest. On the Black Mountains they were scarcely less numerous in belts of rhododendrons bordering streams at between 3200 and 4500 feet, but curiously enough none were seen above the latter elevation, although the balsam forests on the upper slopes of these mountains would seem to furnish congenial haunts.

**Ank. 8, April, 1886. p. 173 174.**

Plumage of some birds from upper  
So. Carolina - Leverett M. Locmis.

*Dendroica caerulescens*. — The black feathers of the throat and chin are without white tips in a male obtained Oct. 2, 1888, and the scapulars and interscapulars are distinctly spotted with black, and unwashed with olive green. The whole appearance of the specimen is that of a spring male in high feather. The exterior edges of several of the outer primaries, near their extremities, are, also, whitish, constituting a rather distinct area when the wing is closed. In another October example the dorsal streaks are so heavy and numerous as to present the appearance of a black patch, nearly as conspicuous as the olive green one in *Compsothlypis americana*. In still another, the crown is thickly marked with black shaft lines.

Ank X, April. 1893. p.164-5.

Sequence of Plumages in the Black-throated Blue Warbler. In my paper on the Molting of Birds (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1896, 159) I erroneously stated that the young males of *Dendroica caerulescens* in the first winter plumage were brown like the adult female. Attention was called to this error by Mr. Wm. Palmer in reviewing my paper in 'The Auk' (1896, p. 242). As I find, however, that many persons still regard some of the brown fall birds as young males it may be well to call attention to an interesting specimen in my collection, secured in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, July 14, 1900. This bird is molting from the juvenal to the first winter plumage, the olive brown feathers of the earlier dress being seen on the back, sides of the body and under the tail, while most of the remaining feathers are of the black, blue and white plumage of the 'old male.' The flight feathers are not shed at this molt. All the feathers of the throat are frosted with white. This character as well as the olive edgings to the wing feathers will serve to distinguish males of the year from old birds. —WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*  
*Auk*, xviii, Jan., 1901, p.110.

Mass. (Concord)

*Dendroica caerulescens* ✓

1886

Long and late occurrence.

May 28 A ♂ singing steadily in oaks on a steep hillside. Its song (as noted by me on the spot) was a drawing wee, wee, wee - see, rising off abruptly at the final syllable which was also strongly emphasized. Curiously enough this bird is the only one that I have seen here this spring.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

*Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE  
WARBLER.

Passes by in full song in May. Though usually silent on its migration in the autumn, it is sometimes to be numbered among the birds which sing at that season. On September 22, 1878, a morning when birds were abundant and active, and a number voiceful, including the House Wren, Blue-headed and White-eyed Vireos, Swamp and Song Sparrows, several of these Warblers were observed in fine plumage and full song. It arrives in autumn with renewed plumage and usually with little fat.

*Dendroica coronata*, Yellow-rumped Warbler; *D. maculosa*, Black-and-yellow Warbler; *D. pennsylvanica*, Chestnut-sided Warbler; *D. castanea*, Bay-breasted Warbler; *D. striata*, Black-poll Warbler; *D. blackburniae*, Blackburnian Warbler; *D. virens*, Black-throated Green Warbler; *D. palmarum hypochrysea*, Yellow Red-poll Warbler; *D. tigrina*, Cape May Warbler.

All of these spring and autumn migrants sing as they pass north, but are silent when they return.

Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 213.



*Dendroica caerulescens*.—Our fifth nest of this species was found June 22, 1888. It contained two addled eggs, one young Warbler, and two young Cow Birds able to fly.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 231.

New York (Oneida Co.)

*Dendroica caerulescens*

Nests & eggs

For descriptions of four nests & sets  
see Ralph & Bagg B'ds Oneida Co. p. 138

### Nesting of the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

BY WM. L. KELLS, ONTARIO, CANADA.

The favorite habitation of the Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) is high, hard-wood-timbered lands, where there is a thick growth of low underbrush, and while the males seek an elevated position among the leafy boughs for the display of their musical talents, the females usually select a lowly site for the cradle of their progeny.

For some years past I had suspected that this species bred in this vicinity from the fact that the song notes of the male were heard warbled with much animation at a period that I knew must be its nesting time, though from the elevation whence the bird sang, I supposed that the female would be also "high" in her nesting habits. On the afternoon of June 5th, 1886, however, when searching for the nests of other species in a piece of low, thick underwood, in the high woods, I discovered a nest with one egg, which at first I took to be that of a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), so close was the resemblance in size, form, material and position of the nest. The different note of the bird, however, soon attracted my attention, and I waited a few moments until she emerged from the thick foliage and approached the nest. I then saw that she was a different species, and a closer examination of the nest also showed that it was much more compact and firmly put together than that of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, though the eggs in size, form, color and marking seemed exactly similar. The scolding voice of this bird soon brought her mate to the place, but he seemed more disposed to sport with her than assist to drive off the intruder. Both, however, came quite close and from notes then taken I have since identified the species as the Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). Being anxious to secure this nest and a full set of eggs, I returned four days after and found that it contained three of the Warbler's own eggs and one of a Cow bird (*Molothrus ater*). These I took and they are now in my collection.

Returning later I found another nest of the same species similarly placed in a small leafy shrub on the edge of a thicket, but containing three young birds several days old, and also one young bird of a Cow bird. In both cases I noticed that the birds in flushing from the nest dropped to the ground and made much commotion among the dry leaves, with the design of course, of drawing the attention of the intruder from the nest.

O. & O. XII. May. 1887 p. 76-77

311. Black Throated Blue Warbler [*Dendroica caerulescens*] Nesting in Connecticut. By C. M. Jones. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 49, 50.

311. Black Throated Blue Warbler [*Dendroica caerulescens*] Nesting in Connecticut. By C. M. Jones. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 49, 50.

*Shore and Game New England Bird Life.*  
*Review by Wm Brewster.*

*Dendroica caerulescens*.—Despite the fact that three identified nests of the Black-throated Blue Warbler have been found in Connecticut, "its local distribution in New England" cannot fairly be considered as "coincident" with that of *Dendroica virens*. The latter breeds regularly throughout the whole of New England and is, if anything, rather commoner in summer in the pine woods of Eastern Massachusetts than among the spruces and firs of the more northern States, while the Black-throated Blue Warbler is, to say the least, mainly confined to the Canadian Fauna. The statement that "it has been observed in summer in Massachusetts" presumably relates to Allen's record (Birds of Springfield, p. 62) of its being "found in the breeding season on Mt. Holyoke (C. W. Bennett) and along the ridges in the western part of the State (B. Horsford)." But these elevated places are both outlying spurs of the Canadian region and many strictly Canadian species, such as the Black Snowbird, regularly breed there. The occurrence of *Dendroica caerulescens* is certainly hard to understand, but the in some peculiar feature of the local events there are at present no sufficient other than exceptional examples.

*Birds of the Great Smoky Mountain*  
*by Arthur Henry M. D.*

Bull. N. O. C. 3, 00

August, 1886.]

AND C

DENDROICA CAERULESCENS.

Black-throated Blue Warbler.

This species arrived a little in advance of *D. blackburniae*, being first observed in Monroe county April 18th, but in very limited numbers, with no perceptible increase until May 3d, when they were seen in considerable numbers in the large tracts of rhododendron and along the cultivated fields and pastures. Their numbers considerably lessened, and by May 12th only a few remained. A close search could not discover them, but a few were found on the mountains at an altitude of about 3,500 feet at the edge of the evergreen growth. In Roane county, on May 16th, they were fairly common on Walden's ridge, at an altitude of about 4,300 feet. On May 21st, the day before ascending Great Smoky Mountain, I saw a pair in a small grove of red maples (*Acer rubrum*), and again on May 24th, the same pair (presumably) were seen carrying material for a nest into a dense laurel thicket. They could not be restricted to any faunal limit, the preference, if any, being for the intermediate station. I was especially fortunate in observing the nidification of this species, in a small laurel swamp, which with the assistance of three obliging lumbermen, I thoroughly searched on May 29th. Three nests were found, but many were overlooked as the swamp was alive with these warblers. The first was placed in a laurel bush about a foot from the ground. It was similar in appearance to that of the Maryland Yellow-throat, but considerable cotton entered into its composition. It was empty, the birds evidently had just completed it. The second nest was in a similar position to the first, being a little higher from the ground. Its structure was more ornamental, a great deal of a flaxy material being woven into the outside. This nest contained four fresh eggs, pinkish-white marked with a few reddish-brown spots; one egg differs from the others in not possessing any markings whatever save a few light-brown ones on the larger end. Dimensions as follows: .63x.49, .63x.50, .61x.48, .62x.49.

The third nest was also in like situation, but built more compactly and neatly than either of the preceding. It contained only two eggs, which were not taken.

Shams and Causes New England Bird Life.  
Review by Wm Brewster.

*Dendroica caerulescens*.—Despite the fact that three identified nests of the Black-throated Blue Warbler have been found in Connecticut, "its local distribution in New England" cannot fairly be considered as "coincident" with that of *Dendroica virens*. The latter breeds regularly throughout the whole of New England and is, if anything, rather commoner in summer in the pine woods of Eastern Massachusetts than among the spruces and firs of the more northern States, while the Black-throated Blue Warbler is, to say the least, mainly confined to the Canadian Fauna. The statement that "it has been observed in summer in Massachusetts" presumably relates to Allen's record (Birds of Springfield, p. 62) of its being "found in the breeding season on Mt. Holyoke (C. W. Bennett) and along the ridges in the western part of the State (B. Horsford)."

But these elevated places are both outlying spurs of the Canadian region and many strictly Canadian species, such as the Black Snowbird, regularly breed there. The occurrence of nests at Eastford, Connecticut, is certainly hard to understand, but the explanation may probably be found in some peculiar feature of the locality where they were taken. At all events there are at present no sufficient reasons for regarding them as other than exceptional examples.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1881, p. 238-239.

*Hamulophila chrysophora*, (Golden-winged Warbler) A few were seen by the winter season

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LOGIST

about 3,500 feet at the edge of the evergreen growth. In Roane county, on May 16th, they were fairly common on Walden's ridge, at an altitude of about 4,300 feet. On May 21st, the day before ascending Great Smoky Mountain, I saw a pair in a small grove of red maples (*Acer rubrum*), and again on May 24th, the same pair (presumably) were seen carrying material for a nest into a dense laurel thicket. They could not be restricted to any faunal limit, the preference, if any, being for the intermediate station. I was especially fortunate in observing the nidification of this species, in a small laurel swamp, which with the assistance of three obliging lumbermen, I thoroughly searched on May 29th. Three nests were found, but many were overlooked as the swamp was alive with these warblers. The first was placed in a laurel bush about a foot from the ground. It was similar in appearance to that of the Maryland Yellow-throat, but considerable cotton entered into its composition. It was empty, the birds evidently had just completed it. The second nest was in a similar position to the first, being a little higher from the ground. Its structure was more ornamental, a great deal of a flaxy material being woven into the outside. This nest contained four fresh eggs, pinkish-white marked with a few reddish-brown spots; one egg differs from the others in not possessing any markings whatever save a few light-brown ones on the larger end. Dimensions as follows: .63x.49, .63x.50, .61x.48, .62x.49.

The third nest was also in like situation, but built more compactly and neatly than either of the preceding. It contained only two eggs, which were not taken.

(To be continued)  
O. & O. 21, Aug. 1886, p. 117

bank of the Lac-qui-parle River about ten miles from Madison. Here was quite a growth of timber along the stream. In the top of a tall elm I saw a large hawk nest: presently a large bird left it, and as it lit on a limb I identified it as Krider's Red-tail, the light colored western form. I tried a shot at it but it was out of range. Upon climbing the tree a set of three eggs were found in the nest, not unlike those of our common *borealis*, but they contained live birds and could not be saved. The same day I took a set of four Marsh Hawks.

On May 30th I saw a fine male Lapland Longspur, thus making three species of Longspurs observed in the county. I was in hopes of finding Baird's Savannah Sparrow, but did not. The western forms of Grass Finch and Night Hawk were noticed. The Horned Larks seemed to have much more of the pink suffusion over the plumage than do specimens from Minneapolis.

During my stay I was surprised at the large number of birds killed by flying against the telegraph wires. Although I was on the tracks very little of the time I found no less than six Ducks, two Field Plover, one Pectoral Sandpiper, and one Marsh Hawk killed by the wires, and on my way home I saw a Meadow Lark strike itself and fall as limp as a rag. Think of the large number that must have been hidden by the grass that I did not see. The section man assured me that in the fall it is no uncommon occurrence to find five or six dead Duck and Prairie Chickens along the track on his section, and that rarely a day passes that he does not find one or more. The Marsh Hawk mentioned I found hanging to the wire by his wing, which was broken and wrapped several times around it.

A Wood Duck had struck the wire full in the breast with such force as to sever the neck and lay the back open from side to side a distance of three inches. Think of the thousands that are killed in this way in the prairie regions, instances of which are too often laid at the collector's door by people who don't know any better.

Well, on May 31st I got my traps together and started for home, arriving safely, well pleased with my delightful trip.

George G. Cantwell.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Now is the time to renew your subscription to the O. & O. Let us know at once if you intend to renew, and you will not be annoyed by having it discontinued.

### Nesting of the Louisiana Water Thrush in 1889 at Raleigh, N. C.

This year we have found six nests of the Louisiana Water Thrush (*Siurus motacilla*). viz.: Three which gave us sets of five eggs each, one which gave us a set of four, one which was never used, and one which the young had just left. Two of the nests were found by flushing the bird from the nest, and four by careful inspection of suitable localities.

The nests were placed above running water in the side of a steep bank, being always sheltered above by overhanging roots or the projecting bank, and their height above the water varied from three to five feet.

The nests were from three hundred yards to nearly a mile away from their feeding grounds, and were found in just the situations I expected from reading Mr. McLaughlin's article last year. His description of the nests also applies. The dates of sets were as follows: April 29, set of five, fresh; April 30, set of five good-sized embryos; May 2, set of five, fresh; and May 14 set of four, small embryos. This was the second laying of the first set found

April 29.

Raleigh, N. C.

C. S. Brintley.

### Nesting of the American Woodcock in North Carolina.

On March 29, 1889, a young friend of mine was returning home from fishing and had just started up a sloping hillside covered with bushes, that led down to the creek bottom, when his bird dog came to a dead stand. On investigating the matter he flushed a female woodcock (*Philohela minor*) from her complement of four eggs. Overjoyed at his find he brought the eggs home to us, two in each hand, and we were equally glad to receive them, and to reward him for his kindness.

The nest was a mere depression on a hillside leading from the pine woods to creek lowlands, and close by a lane leading up the hill from the creek meadows. The eggs were about three-quarters incubated, but we saved them with some trouble.

The Woodcock is a rare resident about here, although sometimes abundant in their migrations. I suppose about a dozen pairs may nest in this neighborhood.

Raleigh, N. C.

C. S. Brintley.

### Nesting of the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Although my first observations of the nesting habits of this species (*Dendroica cerulea*) have already appeared in the pages of the O. & O., I assume that some further notes on the bird itself and its nesting, as noted the past season, may still be interesting.

On the 24th of May, 1889, I took my usual holiday ramble for nesting purposes to the high-hard-wood west of "Wildwood," where three years ago I first discovered the nest of this species. Two weeks before I had noted the bird in full song in the high woods, in the rear of "Wildwood"; and on this occasion as I advanced into the woods, its melody, intermingling with that of other warblers and woodland birds, greeted my ear; and although the newly acquired foliage of the underwood rendered the view in some places very limited, I had not gone far when a rather bulky nest of some small bird attracted my attention and led me to the spot. This was placed in the forks of a small hemlock, about eighteen inches from the ground. The bottom was formed of fine dry leaves, but the nest proper was composed of woolly fibre, some rootlets and a little hair firmly fitted together.

At first I thought it might belong to some new species, but a close examination of the nest and the one egg that it contained caused me to believe that it was another nest of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, and this opinion I afterwards found to be correct, for on my return on the 27th I found the owner seated on the nest, where she remained till I almost touched her, and then as she flushed off, making a rustling noise among the dry leaves, and low underwood, I fully identified her. To my regret the set consisted of only two of the bird's own eggs, and one of a Cowbird's, but as she had begun to incubate I took the nest and its contents, and they are now in my collection.

The eggs are of a clear white hue, irregularly marked on the surface, especially towards the large end, with reddish dots; average size, .65 x .48.

In a paper on the Wood Warblers of the vicinity of Montreal, by the late H. J. Vennor, and published in *The Canadian Naturalist*, Vol. VI, that writer, speaking of this species, says, "This delightful little warbler is exceedingly rare in Lower Canada. Although nothing of a songster, his colors are very bright and rich, and his plumage in general neat. A

small chirp is all that is heard from him as he flies from bush to bush. This warbler is seldom met with in our vicinity. One was shot here some four years ago, and I have not heard of any having been seen since. Our museum has a very good specimen of this rare bird. Certainly they do not breed here regularly, if at all: a stray individual may sometimes remain to rear its brood on our mountain, but not often. Audubon traced this warbler through the upper part of the state of New York into Maine, the British provinces and the Magdalen islands in the Bay of St. Lawrence. According to his account the nest is usually placed on the horizontal branch of a fir tree, seven or eight feet from the ground; nest composed of strips of bark, mosses and fibrous roots, lined with fine grass and an inner lining of feathers.

"When this warbler is feeding among the branches of a tree one can hear quite distinctly the snapping of his bill, as he pursues the insects from twig to twig. He is extremely active, but as we have mentioned before has no real song. Not even during the pairing season does his note become more musical.

"Before dismissing this interesting bird I may be allowed to quote a few lines Wilson has written respecting it. He says: 'It is highly probable that they breed in Canada; but the summer residents among the feathered race are little known or attended to. The habits of the bear, the deer, and beaver are much more interesting to those people, and for a good substantial reason, because more lucrative; and unless there should arrive an order from England for a cargo of skins of Warblers and Flycatchers sufficient to make them an object worth speculation, we are likely to know as little of them hereafter as at present.'"

After reading the above article in the light of more modern discoveries and scientific facts, the field ornithologist is likely to be considerably surprised at the small amount of information possessed by the fathers of American ornithology regarding many of our woodland birds. Whatever may have been the nesting habits of the Black-throated Blue Warbler in the days of Audubon, it does not appear to practise the same modes now, and, although until lately this bird was unknown to me by its proper name, yet I remember it as a distinct species, and of having seen several of its nests when I was a boy many years ago, in the township of Peel; and it sang quite attractively then; and the nests then, as now,

Nov. 1889.]

AND OC

were placed near the ground; but those observed were generally in wild hop-vines near the edge of the woods.

One pair, I remember, used to frequent a piece of thick woods in the bend of the creek, where it issued from the forest unto our farm and to me; it was then known as the Black-backed Warbler, and under that term I described it among other warblers, in a series of articles on our wild birds in *The Rural Canadian*. And in contradistinction to the time when Wilson wandered and wrote, there are now quite a number of persons in the Canadian provinces giving the keenest attention to the appearing and life-histories of the feathered race, and when Vennor wrote the above paper he confessedly knew little of this species or he would not have characterized it as a songless bird.

But though this little wild-wood wanderer warbles its song with clearness and animation, especially for some weeks after its arrival from the south, yet it must be admitted that its music is not remarkable for its melody, for in its refrain there seems a melancholy plaintiveness, as though the little performer was complaining that it was seeking in vain for something that it had loved and lost; but as adding a varying strain to the great orchestra of the wilderness it must ever be interesting to the lover of bird music, and the student of animated nature.

This species is about five inches in length. In its spring plumage the color of the male on the upper parts is of a uniform slaty blue, while the cheeks, chin, throat, and sides of the breast are deep black, the hinder lower parts are pure white, and there are some white dots on the wings and tail. Its favorite habitat is high hard wood, timbered lands, and while the male loves to warble his song notes high among the branches, as he gleams his insect food from the foliage, the female usually selects a more lowly site for the cradle of her progeny, and in common with most of the others of the smaller species of birds, that nest in exposed positions, she is often compelled to be the foster-mother of one or more of the young of that feathered parasite, the Cowbird.

William L. Kells.

Listowel, Ontario, Canada.

O. & O. XIV, Nov. 1889 p. 170-171

PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
BRISTOL COUNTY  
ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

No. 3.

A RECORD OF THE BREEDING OF VIREO  
SOLITARIUS, SPIZA AMERICANA AND  
DENDROICA CÆRULESCENS, IN  
BRISTOL COUNTY, MASS.

BY  
FREDERIC H. CARPENTER.

BRISTOL COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB,  
F. W. ANDROS, TAUNTON, MASS.,  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

1887.

VIREO SOLITARIUS. SOLITARY VIREO.

While passing through a pine grove in the town of Raynham, on the afternoon of May 30th, 1885, my companion, Mr. F. W. Andros, drew my attention to a vireo's nest hanging from the dead limb of a pine. The decorated pensile nest was a prominent object against the black limbs of the tree, and the position seemed at variance with the accepted typical situations of the homes of our vireos. The nest was just finished, but an inspection proved it to be empty. No birds were seen.

On the afternoon of June 6th, in company with Mr. Andros, I again visited the spot, and saw the tail of the bird as she sat in the nest. She was not easily flushed, but as she exposed herself to view, I at once recognized her as a Blue-headed Vireo, a familiar bird of my experience in the Maine woods, but a rarity in the breeding season in Bristol County. The nest at this time contained three eggs which exhibited no conspicuous variation from those of the Red-eyed variety. The nest was very much ornamented on the outside with bits of paper and cobwebs. The above notes constitute the only recorded instance of the breeding of *solitarius* in this country.

SPIZA AMERICANA. BLACK-THROATED BUNTING.

On June 10th, 1886, I received a letter from Dr. H. F. Dexter of Dartmouth, Mass., informing me that he had found the nest of a sparrow, which he was unable to identify. In response to his urgent invitation, I visited the Doctor's farm June 12th, and we proceeded

to the briar-grown edge of his cornfield, down which we had walked but a short distance, when we flushed a small bird from her nest. I caught but a fleeting glimpse as the occurrence was unexpected, my friend not having warned me of the close proximity in which we were to the nest. The bird soon reappeared and as she balanced herself for a moment upon a large rag-weed, I identified it as *spiza americana*. The nest was very bulky, being composed of both coarse and fine grasses, placed in a small clump of blackberry vines.

The eggs were five in number, of the well-known type of this species, which is very common in more western States.

DENDROICA, CÆRULESCENS. BLACK-THROATED  
BLUE WARBLER.

Mr. David Stone, a farmer residing in Dighton, brought to me on June 13, 1884, a set of four eggs in a nest of soft plant fibres and cotton. The eggs and nest were undoubtedly those of some warbler, and informing the finder that I could not identify without the birds, I paid no attention to the matter save to preserve the eggs and nest. Next day I was surprised by Mr. Stone who brought to my residence a male Black-throated Blue Warbler, which he said was one of the birds which built the nest delivered to me on the previous day, he having shot it, as it remained about the spot from which the nest was taken. The eggs can be readily attributed to that species, but I leave the record resting solely on the foregoing evidence. The occurrence of this warbler in the breeding season is alone worthy of record.

THE  
ORNITHOLOGIST

—AND—

## OÖLOGIST.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF

## NATURAL HISTORY,

ESPECIALLY DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF

## BIRDS.

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

DESIGNED AS A MEANS FOR THE INTERCHANGE OF NOTES  
AND OBSERVATIONS ON BIRD LIFE.FRANK B. WEBSTER, Publisher,  
PAWTUCKET, R. I.The Black-throated Blue Warbler  
in Connecticut.

On the 6th of June, 1883, I had the good fortune to find a nest of *Dendroica cerulescens*, being the fourth which I have taken in this town (see Nutt. Bull. Vol. 1, p. 11, and O. and O. Vol. 6, p. 49). It was by a mere accident that I found it. At the time I was giving my attention wholly to a Canada Flycatcher (*Myiodiocetes canadensis*) singing just in the edge of a thickly wooded swamp, whose mate I felt sure was brooding near by. I was slowly making my way toward him through the thick growth of Laurels, and as I pushed aside the bushes to open a path, I caught a glimpse of an object just beneath my hand which arrested my attention. I carefully parted the leaves and there lay a nest with whose appearance I had become somewhat familiar. It contained four eggs, but the bird had slipped away. So I sat down on a stone not more than four or five yards away and waited to see what I could see. Presently I heard a low chirp, then another and soon a bush moved: a few moments more and there was a slight quiver of the leaves in another part of the thicket, and then I discovered the bird cautiously passing through the leaves. Gradually she approached nearer, till I could see her dis-

tinctly enough to distinguish the faint white wing-spot. Her complaints were uttered in a low tone, but her mate evidently heard them for he very soon made his appearance and seemed more disturbed than the female. He kept very close to her, within a foot or two, changing his position whenever she moved, and his showy plumage formed a marked contrast with the modest garb of the female. Their protestations grew louder as I continued to watch them, and the female Canada Flycatcher, whose nest must have been near by, came to offer her sympathy. But this was not very graciously received, for the female *cerulescens* hustled her off the premises without ceremony. I then took a position so as to bring some tall bushes between me and the nest, when she began gradually to approach it and soon disappeared behind them. The male also disappeared at the same time. I then cautiously approached and found her settled in her nest with only her head and tail appearing above the rim.

This nest was not so near the ground as were the other three which I have found, the top being seventeen and one-half inches high. In general appearance it resembles them. On the outside is a quantity of some white, woolly substance, not spread evenly over the nest, but stuck on in bunches as if the bird had deposited what she brought each time, whenever it was most convenient, and without any particular object in view, unless it was for the looks of the thing.

This bird seems to have a partiality for wet ground. The nest was not more than thirty yards from the edge of a wet swamp. It was in large woods, having a thick undergrowth composed principally of *Kalmias*, in one of which it was built. And a reference to my accounts of the other nests will show that they were similarly situated, i. e., in *Kalmias*. At neither of the other nests did I see anything of the

male bird. I was therefore particularly pleased to see him make his appearance on this occasion, as it removed some unfavorable opinions about them which I had begun to entertain.

As I took my first nests of this species in 1874, their breeding here embraces a period of nine years at least. And as I was obliged to capture the first two females for identification, neither they nor their offspring could have been the parents of these last two nests. This would seem to indicate that it was not entirely accidental that one or even two pairs had dropped out of the migration and remained so far south of their usual breeding grounds, but rather that at least a colony had been established here for many years. It would be interesting to know just how this was first brought about. But it would be reasonable to suppose that it began with a single nest. A bird may have been in some way partially disabled so that she could not continue her flight, or the necessities of maternity may have checked it, and making a home where she could, that would be the home of her offspring as truly as though it were farther north, and the place which they would naturally seek on their return the next season. There is no reason why the same thing might not happen to any of the species of small birds which habitually proceed to the far north to spend the summer. A more thorough observation of their migratory and breeding habits will doubtless result in modifying many current opinions respecting them.

It is an interesting question, and deserving of careful investigation, whether there is in any of the more northern summer residents and particularly the *sylvicolide*, a tendency to shift or extend their breeding range further south? The constant destruction of the northern forests must produce climatic changes to some extent, and probably will affect the food supply. But is this change of such character and extent as to produce any perceptible

change, as yet, in the summer residence of these birds? And on the other hand is there a tendency in any species to push farther north as the country becomes more open?—*C. M. Jones, Eastford, Conn.*

O. &amp; Q. IX, Mar. 1884, p. 3031



lows; when there is no perceptible difference in the habits of either. By the middle of September they have all disappeared.

WATSONTOWN, PA., FEB. 20th, 1876.

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ON THE BREEDING OF THE BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*DENDRECA CÆRULESCENS*) IN CONNECTICUT.

BY C. M. JONES.

As but little is known concerning the nesting of this warbler, a description of two instances which have come under my observation may not be without interest. But perhaps the most interesting fact connected with the discovery of these nests is the occurrence of this species, during the breeding season, so far south of its usual summer habitat. Eastford, where they were found, is in the north-east corner of Connecticut, being eight miles south of the Massachusetts line, and sixteen miles west of the Rhode Island line.

My first discovery of the nest of this bird was on the 8th of June, 1874. While taking a stroll in search of specimens for my cabinet, my attention was arrested by a bird of which I could not determine the species. I tried to get a shot, but it was in the tops of the trees, and kept flitting about so rapidly that I could only keep it in view sufficiently to follow, which I did for, perhaps, seventy-five yards, and then lost sight of it entirely. But just then I discovered a nest of the Wood Thrush (*Turdus mustelinus*), proceeded to appropriate the eggs, and had scarcely finished packing them, when I again discovered the bird, of which I had been in pursuit, in a bush not more than a dozen yards off, and from her restless manner I was convinced that it had a nest very near. I accordingly retired a short distance, and sat down to await further developments. Presently it flew near the Thrush's nest, and after waiting a few moments, dropped into a low bush and disappeared. Allowing it sufficient time to get settled, I carefully approached the spot, and, looking under the low bushes, discovered it sitting on a nest, not more than two feet from where I stood while taking the Thrush's eggs. The bird let me approach within a yard before starting, and then, hop-

ping suddenly to the ground, it flew to a bush five or six yards off, uttering a few low chirps, endeavoring apparently to conceal itself. Not being able to identify the species I was obliged to shoot, and it proved to be a female *Dendroica caerulescens*.

The nest was located in deep woods, near the base of a hill, which sloped down to a swampy run. It was built in a small laurel, (*Kalmia latifolia*), a fourth of an inch in diameter at the base. About five inches from the ground the bush separated into three branches, and in this triple fork the nest was situated. It has a firm and compact appearance. External diameter, about three inches; internal, one and three-fourths inches; external depth, two and three-fourths inches; internal, one and three-fourths inches. Top of nest, seven and one-half inches high from the ground. It is composed outwardly of what appears to be the dry bark of the grape vine, with a few twigs and roots. This is covered in many places with a reddish, woolly substance, apparently the outer covering of some species of cocoon. The inside is composed of small black roots and hair. The nest contained four fresh eggs, of which the following is a description:—

No. 1, ashy-white, with a ring of brown and lilac spots and blotches around the larger end, and a few minute spots of the same scattered over the entire surface. Precisely at the centre of the large end is a small spot of deep umber; dimensions, .61 by .47. No. 2, white, with a slight tinge of green; the larger end covered with blotches and spots like No. 1; one side, near the small end, shaded with the same, where there are also a few small spots of dark umber: dimensions, .61 by .47. No. 3, ground color like No. 2; the larger end covered with blotches of light brown and pale lilac; a spot of dark umber near the small end—dimensions, .64 by .50. No. 4, ashy-white, the larger end surrounded and nearly covered with spots of brown, with minute spots of the same scattered over the entire surface—dimensions, .66 by .50.

The second nest I discovered on the 13th of the same month. It was about eighty rods distant from the first, on level ground, and near a piece of swampy land. The spot was somewhat shaded by hemlocks; the principal part of the forest trees being oak and chestnut.

While examining a nest of *Virso olivaceus*, I heard a faint chirp slowly repeated, and, looking around, soon discovered in

one of the hemlocks a bird which I felt sure was of the same species taken a few days before. From her manner I felt she had a nest not far distant, and remembering how closely the other allowed me to approach before leaving her eggs, I concluded that I must have passed very near the nest of this bird; therefore retracing my steps, and looking carefully among the bushes I soon discovered the object of my search. Desiring that there should be no mistake about the species, I at once went home, and, taking my gun, returned to the place. Approaching cautiously I discovered her on the nest. She permitted me to approach very near, and then, like the other, dropped suddenly from the nest, and flew into the same hemlock in which I first found her. After securing my bird I took the eggs, but to my regret found that incubation had proceeded so far that it was impossible to save them. These—four in number—were of a darker shade than the first set, but this was evidently the result of incubation. They were also more spotted, and the spots spread more generally over the entire surface than in the other set. The nest was not so near the ground as the first, the top being eleven and one half inches from it. It was placed in a laurel, or more strictly speaking, in two laurels. One of these lay horizontally in the fork of the other, and on the horizontal one the nest was set, held in place by being attached on one side to the upright branches of the other. It is constructed of the same materials as the first, excepting the woolly substance on the outside, of which there are only two small pieces. External diameter, three and one half inches; internal, one and seven-eighths inches; external depth, two inches; internal, one and three-eighths inches.

As will be seen, by comparison, the nest is much more flat than the first, the result, undoubtedly, of its different situation on a horizontal branch, while the other being in a narrow triple fork, was necessarily narrower and deeper. Placed side by side the two nests bear very little resemblance, and would hardly be suspected of belonging to the same species.

Bull. N.O.C. I, April, 1878. p. 11-13.

NEST OF *DENDRÆCA CÆRULESCENS*, (L.) *Bd.* — In June, 1880, I was in camp in the Northern wilderness of New York, in Hamilton County, about twenty miles northeast of Wilmurt P. O., Herkimer Co. On the 13th of that month it rained heavily, and as we had a trip of a few miles from camp to make, I allowed the weather to prevent my taking my gun with me. About half-way between two small lakes, about a quarter of a mile apart, on a high bluff covered with heavy spruce timber, I discovered the nest of a Warbler. It was built about eighteen inches from the ground, in the top of a dead, overturned spruce. It was a beautiful structure, composed outwardly of strips of white rotten wood and inner bark mingled with a few birch "curls," and neatly lined with fine black roots, resembling horse-hair (I have found the same material used as lining by the Olive-backed Thrush), and the finer white quills of our common porcupine, some of which were even large enough for the barbs to be quite perceptible to the naked eye. The nest measured as follows: outside diameter, 4 inches; inside diameter,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches; outside depth, 3 inches; inside depth,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The three eggs it contained almost exactly resembled in size and markings the eggs of the Redstart, except that the spots were mostly in a crown around the larger end. I was unable to identify the bird, and, having nothing with which to kill her, left the nest as I found it. The next day, June 14, I returned with my gun and shot the female, a Black-throated Blue Warbler, as she left the nest. Having secured the mother, I turned to the nest, only to find three small birds, the eggs since the previous day having hatched, greatly to my disappointment, as the reader may imagine. — EGBERT BAGG, JR., *Utica, N. Y. Bull.* N. O. C. 5, Oct., 1880, p. 238.

bred, and it is interesting to note that the woodcock now regularly breeds in North Lancashire, as it indeed does in most English counties from the Tweed to the Lizard. On the east coast of Scotland—often extending, as ascertained by systematic observations, along the entire coast line of Britain—the first flight of woodcocks generally occurs during the first ten days of November. These birds soon pass on, unless "north winds keep them" to cover." The second and greatest flight occurs about the middle of December. Since the 11th of October streams of immigrants have been constantly flowing on to our coasts, from hooded crows, woodcocks, green and golden plovers, to tiny gold-crested wrens, our smallest British birds, which cross the North Sea in great numbers in autumn, and recross again in spring to the breeding haunts in Northern Europe.

Sky larks, as usual, have arrived already from overseas in enormous numbers, and the arrival of blackbirds, song thrushes, chaffinches, and other small birds has at the same time been large. Linn buntlings, young birds, have also put in an appearance.

### Nesting of the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

BY EGBERT BAGG, UTICA, N. Y.

Mr. John Burroughs, the Rev. C. M. Jones, of Eastford, Connecticut, and the writer, if not the only persons who have found the nests of the Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), are, as far as my reading goes, the only ones who have thought it worth while to put their discoveries in print. I do not count Audubon's Nova Scotia nest, quoted also by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, as it was evidently not correctly identified. The description agrees exactly with the nests of the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) taken by me.

In the year 1884, my friend Dr. William M. Ralph found a large piece of woods near Holland Patent, N. Y., in which these warblers remained during the breeding season. In 1885 a fairly careful search failed to find their nests, but the birds were still there in considerable numbers, though a thorough exploration of all the neighboring pieces of woods failed to find them anywhere else. In 1886 we were more successful, and I think that an account of our experience will be interesting.

To begin with, the piece of woods deserves description. It is one of the largest in the

neighborhood, being at least a mile in length, and from a quarter to a half in width. A large part of it is swampy and heavily timbered—the home of the Winter Wren (*Anorthura troglodytes hyemalis*) and the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) both of which we have found nesting there. There is, however, a small tract in it of high and dry ground, nearly, if not quite, surrounded by a swamp. On this knoll, which is covered with large timber standing rather openly, but grown up thickly with brush from three to ten feet high, on the driest part, where the brush was lowest, and composed almost entirely of sugar maple, we found three of the four nests which rewarded our efforts.

On May 29th, 1886, Dr. Ralph found the first nest. It was placed two feet from the ground in the upright fork of a little maple bush. It was a loose structure, measuring, outside diameter, three inches; inside, one and three-quarter inches; outside depth, three and three-quarter inches; inside one and one-half inches. It was composed of strips of rotten wood, held together and lined with fine black roots, and further secured with a few strips of the bark of deciduous trees. It contained four eggs, which were somewhat incubated, and measured .66 x .50; .66 x .51; .61 x .51, and .64 x .51 inches. They are white, rather sparsely marked with lilac and brown spots and dots, heaviest at the large end. In shape and general appearance they resemble some specimens of eggs of the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*).

On the same day Dr. Ralph found another nest, just completed, about which he saw the birds, but it was empty. On June 11th we went together to collect this nest, when we found to our disappointment and surprise that it was gone, literally every bit, except one little strand of bark wrapped about a twig. As there were no tracks of any kind, and as not a twig or leaf of the little bush was disturbed, it was evident that it had been taken away, either by the owners, or by some other birds for the purpose of nest building elsewhere. Our own opinion being that the owners had determined to "move house," we carefully searched the knoll again, and were rewarded by finding a nest on which the bird was sitting on a single egg. This we left until the 14th, when, on visiting the nest again, it still contained only one egg. The nest was placed in the upright fork of a little maple, nine inches from the ground, and was composed of the same material as the former one, and measured, outside

diameter, three inches; inside, one and three-quarter inches; outside depth, four and a half inches; inside, one and a half inches. The single egg proved to be dried up; undoubtedly infertile, and abnormal, in that the shell was thick and rough in places and very thin in others—in fact in one little spot there was no shell at all, though of course this did not show until the egg was blown. It was a very prettily shaped egg, perfectly symmetrical, rather blunt at the larger end, and tapering to a point at the smaller end. It was pinkish white, and spotted and blotched with darker shades of pluk and brownish pink; especially at the larger end, where the spots became confluent, making a perfect wreath. It measured .74 x .56 inches.

After researching the knoll without success, we crossed a large field to a similar piece of woods. It soon commenced to rain, and we were turning our faces towards home, when in crossing a rather open little space on the side of a hill where the ground was dry and grown up with just such brush as the other knoll, I discovered a bird on her nest. She was so tame as to allow me to put my face within three feet of her, and what was my surprise and pleasure to see that she was a female Black-throated Blue Warbler. With a shout which frightened the bird from the nest, I called my companion to me. When he came, however, he expressed some doubt as to the identity of the eggs. Although the nest agreed with the others, the eggs were so different that he could hardly believe that I had not mistaken the bird. So to satisfy him, and to corroborate my eyes, we sat down to wait. In a very few minutes both birds appeared, flitting about in evident distress, and within five minutes the female was on the nest again, and Dr. Ralph was satisfied, especially when he had put his face where I had put mine before, and, as I might say, counted each feather.

The nest was composed of exactly the same materials as the others, put together in the same loose manner, placed a foot from the ground in the upright fork of a little maple, and measured, outside diameter, three and one-half inches; inside, two and a quarter; outside depth, five inches; inside, one and one-half inches. The eggs which were rather more than half incubated, were four in number, and at first gave the impression of being like those of the Nuthatches more than anything else, being pinkish (markedly so before blowing), quite heavily marked and blotched with dark brownish pink, especially at the larger end, and

a few fine marks and scratches of a darker color. They were rather blunt at the smaller end, and seemed large for the bird. They measured .75 x .54; .72 x .55; .76 x .54, and .72 x .52 inches. These measurements, however, are no larger than that of the single egg found in the former nest, but the effect was that of larger eggs on account of the shape; and the contents would undoubtedly be somewhat more on that account.

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HYDE PARK, MASS., SEPTEMBER, 1892.

No. 9.

### Nesting of the Black-throated Blue Warbler in Buncombe Co., N.C.

Altitude regardless of latitude seems to fill all the requirements of this species as far as their nesting site is concerned. Although many believe the Black-throated Blue Warbler to be strictly a northern breeder, we found them breeding sparingly in the Craggy mountains at elevations ranging from 4000 to 6000 feet. Their favorite abodes are among the rank weeds and ferns which spring up between the rocks and fallen trees in the more heavily timbered ravines, and almost invariably these localities are known to the natives as rattle-snake dens. Mr. John S. Cairns has collected a number of their skins in seasons past, and was satisfied from their presence during their breeding season that they bred in the Craggies. While collecting with him from May 5 until May 26, we together worked pretty thoroughly a spur of these mountains running probably seven or eight miles, and succeeded in taking eight nests with eggs, four sets containing four eggs each and four containing three each. I will say here that the word "*worked*" is hardly strong enough to describe a collector's labor in these mountains, for he finds no prairie where he may get his "second-wind."

These birds do not necessarily build on swampy or low ground, as we found nests ranging from two feet to five hundred yards from water. Occasionally a nest will be placed in rhododendron shoots and

laurels, but apparently they prefer a weed known here as the rattle-weed, an annual that shoots four branches from the stalk; the leaves are trifid and lanceolate, but they do not flower this early and the material preserved will not identify them. *Ridgway's Manual* says "nest on high trees 20-50 feet or more from the ground," but we found none higher than three feet and one only ten inches from the ground. Judging from timber and suitable shelter here offered, I do not believe they ever breed in the higher trees.

Their nests show little variation in their construction, and a description of one will be representative. Exteriorly it is composed of strips of bark of rhododendron or grape-vine interwoven with pieces of birch bark, moss and spiders webs, lined with the fibrous part of *Tillandsia usnoides*, long moss, the same as is used by upholsterers. This long moss is probably the same material described by Rev. C. M. Jones and others as fine black roots and hair, as the fibre very closely resembles curled hair or rootlets.

Their eggs in coloration and shape are as variable as those of any of the Warblers. Some are well rounded, one specimen measuring .61 x .52, while some are quite elongate, one measuring .68 x .49. Ground color, greenish-white, and buffy-white. Some are heavily blotched with reddish-brown and lilac-gray in a wreath around the larger end, while others are marked over their entire surface with madder-brown and lilac-gray.

I am indebted to Mr. Benjamin M. Everhart, our eminent mycological botanist, for the identification of the nest lining as above.

Samuel B. Ladd.

West Chester, Pa., Aug. 22, 1892.

Since writing the above Mr. Everhart has identified the weed mentioned as the rattle-weed to be *Cautophylum thalictroides*, better known as blue cohosh or pappoose-root.

S. B. L.

#### A Spring Morning Ramble.

I woke up this morning and looked out of the window on one of the finest spring days we have had this season. Jumping into my clothes and eating a hasty breakfast I started off, taking the horsecar to Beverly Cove, and from there started off through a field toward "the Park."

It was a beautiful morning, and on entering the field I noted a large flock of Robins hunting on the yet frozen ground for their breakfast. I stopped for a few minutes on the bridge spanning the "dividing line" brook, listening to the gurgling waters as they rushed along over the rocks, making tiny waves that danced merrily along in the bright sunshine. After staying here a little while I continued my walk through the park, seeing nothing of note until I got nearly out, when I discovered a last season's Hawk's nest, which I marked to visit later with the expectation of finding it inhabited.

Coming out near a hedge that is a favorite resort for small birds both winter and spring, I suddenly heard the songs of several Song Sparrows that I did not hear at all until I made my appearance, when, as if of one accord they commenced to sing as if to greet me, each one waiting until the other finished his song, then seemingly trying to outdo him.

After the many walks we have taken this winter by this brook and along this hedge when all bird songs were hushed,

how sweet these little songsters sounded. And this morning the hedge seemed to be alive with them and a flood of melody came from every bush from the earliest of spring songsters. These birds were evidently new arrivals from the south, as they were in flocks. We have a few stragglers that stay with us all winter, although I have never heard one sing before the first of March.

Here also was heard the cry of the Yellow Hammer from several different places and a Hawk, evidently the Red-shouldered, was seen sailing around a favorite breeding ground of that species. Here I sat down on a pile of pine boughs in a nice warm, sunny spot, to watch the flock of Song Sparrows and hear their songs. They seemed quite tame, and notwithstanding I was in plain sight, they jumped around hunting for food, and every little while one would jump up on a branch and bracing back, dropping his wings, spreading his tail and throwing back his little head, would send forth music that would put to shame any opera singer; then jumping down and shaking himself would look over to me as much as to say, wasn't that done nicely. As I sat here I noted a pair of Juncos, a flock of Robins and another of Bluebirds. The Robins looked as if they had just arrived from the south, large, plump and in fine condition. A pair of Bluebirds came and lit in the tree over me and warbled their low, sweet song.

I next went through a strip of woods where a Red-shouldered Hawk builds every season and where a fine set of eggs was taken last year. As I emerged into the opening I saw that "cowardly" Red-shoulder that was sailing so majestically a short time ago making the best time possible in his vain endeavor to get away from a solitary Crow that was chasing him. It is a wonder to me that he did not turn about and with one or two "digs"

I am indebted to Mr. Benjamin M. Everhart, our eminent mycological botanist, for the identification of the nest lining as above.

Samuel B. Ladd.

West Chester, Pa., Aug. 22, 1892.

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S. B. L.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 129-30



*Dendroica coronata*.

1889

1007

April  $21^{\frac{1}{2}}$  <sup>2m</sup> ~~1889~~  $30^{\frac{3}{4}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $17^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $23^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $25^{\frac{10}{10}}$   $26^{\frac{10}{10}}$   $26^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>

May  $5^{\frac{6}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $10^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $2^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $10^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $13^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $15^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $18^{\frac{8}{10}} <sup>1889</sup>  $4^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $10^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>$

Aug  $9^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $10^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $18^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>

Nov.  $7^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $14^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $5^{\frac{8}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>

Dec.  $5^{\frac{10}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $10^{\frac{10}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>  $18^{\frac{10}{10}}$  <sup>1889</sup>

Jan'y

a.  
1794: 1894

Oct

Milton Concord  
 72-12<sup>18</sup> 13-11 1894

Feb.

a. 27 (15) (704.) 1890

March

Arlington 5<sup>(10)</sup>-30<sup>(1)</sup> (Fax) 1890 a. 10<sup>(5)</sup> Fax, 18<sup>(6)</sup> Fax, 1891. 25<sup>(11)</sup> (Fax) 1893 a. 22<sup>(4)</sup> (Fax) 1894

April

21<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>15</sup> 30<sup>10</sup> Concord 1892

"<sup>Max.</sup> 12<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 22<sup>+</sup> 23<sup>⑥</sup> 30" (W. Faxon) - 1893

$22^{\circ} - 24^{\circ} - 25^{\circ} - 26^{\circ} - 27^{\circ} - 28^{\circ} - 29^{\circ} - 30^{\circ}$  Concord 1893 18<sup>7m</sup> 1894

May

1<sup>10</sup> 2<sup>10</sup> 3<sup>25</sup> 4<sup>15</sup> 5<sup>10</sup> 6<sup>20</sup> 7<sup>15</sup> 8<sup>6</sup> 10<sup>8</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>15</sup> 19<sup>4</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>3</sup> 24<sup>3</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> Concord 1892

$\frac{6 \text{ hex}}{1^3 - 2^3 = 9^2}$

Lowville  
1<sup>c</sup> 3<sup>c</sup> 4<sup>c</sup> 6<sup>c</sup>

1894

Sept

21<sup>-</sup> 24<sup>①</sup><sub>③</sub> 26<sup>④</sup> 28<sup>3</sup> Concord

1892

Coronata

0A.

R. Co. Mil. Co. Concord.  
8<sup>6</sup>-9<sup>3</sup>-11<sup>30</sup>-13<sup>1</sup>-16<sup>2</sup>-17<sup>10</sup>-18<sup>1</sup>-19<sup>4</sup>-20<sup>3</sup>-22<sup>10</sup>-23<sup>3</sup>-24<sup>3</sup>-25<sup>1</sup>-26<sup>3</sup>-27<sup>1</sup>-28<sup>10</sup>-29<sup>3</sup>-1891.

Concord

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1892

$$25^{\circ} 26'$$

25<sup>10</sup> 26<sup>8</sup> 27<sup>②</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> 31<sup>4</sup> 1893.



Dendroica coronata. B. H. = Ball's Hill.

January

February

March

April 15<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>30</sup> 29<sup>30</sup> Concord 1895-5<sup>am</sup> 1892.  
 12<sup>2/4</sup> 14<sup>2/4</sup> 16<sup>2/4</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>2/4</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> Concord 1896  
 2<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> Ball's Hill  
 2<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> Ball's Hill  
 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> Concord 1897  
 17<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> Concord, 1899.

May 1<sup>1</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> Concord 1895-19-20<sup>advent</sup> 1892.  
 1<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 32<sup>1</sup> 42<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> Concord 1898  
 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> Concord 1899.

August

September 27<sup>am</sup> 1891.

October [6<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> Concord 1895  
 " 11<sup>1</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> Concord 1896  
 " 19<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup> Concord 1897  
 " 2<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> Concord 29<sup>1</sup> 1898  
 " 2<sup>1</sup> 3<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> Concord 1899  
November 4<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 1897 1<sup>1</sup> 1898  
 1<sup>1</sup> 1896 4<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 1897 1<sup>1</sup> 1898

December

*Dendroica coronata*

1889 Mass.

Oct. 19 Arlington. - A ♂ in full song. He sang repeatedly. The day was clear and warm. I have never heard one sing before in autumn (W. Faxon). Autumn singing

1890 "

Jan. Feb. Mch Arlington. - Faxon found a small number wintering in a place where there is a good deal of bayberry. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> he saw birds, fifteen on Feb. 27, ten on March 5 and one Mch. 30. Wintering in Arlington

1891

March 10 Arlington. - "Five or six *D. coronata* in Arlington this morning in exactly the same spot where they wintered last year. Probably they have been in that neighborhood all this winter, too" (W. Faxon letter March 10, 1891). Wintering in Arlington

Marsham. - Mr. Dutton Bangs tells me that he found over 100 in a thicket of bayberry bushes, Smilax etc. near the shore of Buzzards Bay. A Snow Owl was preying on them (see *Nyctia nyctia*). He did not give me the date of this observation but it was either late February or early March. He has found them in this place every winter for a number of years. Wintering at Marsham

1893

Jan. 31 Martha's Vineyard. - Only one small flock seen by D. Bangs during those four days spent in the woods near W. Kirby. They have wintered in the usual numbers at Barnstable. & Faxon has found one bird in Arlington. Wintering

1895 Mass. &

June 12 N. H. Yellow-rumps were very scarce the past spring migration. I saw less than a dozen in all, Faxon had the same experience, & J. H. Bowles reports observing only one bird at Poultney. at Warren N. H. May 20 to June 7 Faxon & I found only a very few breeding birds. They were most numerous on Mt. Moosabuck about 3000 ft. Spring & Summer 1895

*Dendroica coronata*

1889 Mass.

Dec. 4-7 Marston's Mills. -- Abundant in large flocks in or Wintering

near swamps grown up to tufelos with a dense undergrowth of *Asclepias viscosa*, *Achillea ligustrina*, *Rosa carolina* and *Clethra* overrun by grape vines and rendered fairly impenetrable in places by the profusion of green briar and wild blackberry bushes.

To these swamps they retreated in windy, cold weather but on fine, still days they ventured out into the pastures to feed on bayberries and sometimes scattered through the oak & pitch pine woods on the neighboring hills. ~~Near~~ the

swamp at the mouth of the Little river that flows through the village I saw, <sup>Dec. 5,</sup> a flock of fully one hundred birds busily feeding on bayberries along the edge of the salt marsh. They were accompanied by numerous Tree Sparrows and a few Tree Sparrows. As I advanced I drove the combined flocks before me into the swamp. The Warblers were very silent and not nearly as restless as in early autumn.

I saw none in upland woods at any distance from swamps but a few came about the house (Capt. Baxter's) when the weather was fine and others were observed with Chickadees in oak woods on a knoll near a large swamp in a hollow to the southward.

The swamp bordering the river is full of living springs - down of them in the space of a few acres bubbling out under the foot of the bordering banks. These springs were frozen. Snipe & Rails winter here. On the 5<sup>th</sup>. Swamp Sparrows were numerous in most gale throats

Dendroica coronata.

*Dendroica coronata*

1892,

Oct. 8 Concord. The Myrtle Warblers are among the most numerous and universally distributed of the smaller birds at this date. They frequent open treeless places much more than in spring and I saw them along roadsides perching on the fences + low bushes in stubble about "lots" of corn or other grain and very frequently near houses, barn and other buildings. They associate freely with Bluebirds and the different kinds of Sparrows in such places. Their plumage forms, generally brownish coloring and conspicuous streaking beneath give them a curious resemblance to young Chipping Sparrows but the yellow rump is shown conspicuously when the bird starts to fly.

Dendroica coronata.

Concord, Mass.

Song.

1898. This morning in Lawrence's big woods we found a mixed

May 1. flock of Yellow-rumps and Yellow Palm Warblers flitting about among the oaks and pines darting out after flying insects and singing freely, the dry, chattering notes of the Palm Warblers blending with the much sweeter ones of the Yellow-rumps. The song of the latter species possesses the same dreamy quality as that of D.dominica which, indeed, it strikingly resembles in other respects although it is shorter and less penetrating. Despite the fact that the Yellow-rump does not breed here it is the earliest bird to reach us whose coloring suggests summer as the Black and White Creeper is the first whose song carries the same suggestion.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Found sparingly in spruce, hemlock, and white pine woods.

July 5 to

Aug.15. Ceased singing July 21st (July 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

*Dendroica coronata*

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island. June 20<sup>2</sup>\* 21<sup>5</sup>\* 24<sup>4</sup>\* 25<sup>3</sup>\* 26<sup>3</sup>\* 27<sup>1</sup>\* 28<sup>2</sup>\* 29<sup>2</sup>\* 30<sup>1</sup>\*

July 1<sup>2</sup> 2<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>1</sup> 5<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> 8<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup> 11<sup>1</sup> 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>2</sup> 14<sup>4</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>5</sup>

Dumpling Island - June 22'.

Grog Island

" 23 <sup>2♂</sup> 1♀ and nest,  
\* 4 young ready to fly - did fly. Nest against main stem

Black spruce, 8 ft. above ground, among & on dead twigs.

Center dense cluster flowers. Stem bin. opposite vert.

Nest thickly feather-lined - taken - photo taken

Isle aux Hauts. July 8. One seen.

Sedgwick July 15 } Common in open woods & pastures but less  
Buxtonville " 16 } to, apparently, than on Deer Isl.

Brooklyn

A Yellow-rump, in the woods behind our house on Stinson's neck has  
a song which in form closely resembles a Prairie Warbler's note  
running up the scale in a precisely similar manner & the time, <sup>& number of notes</sup> being  
the same, When the bird is within 50 yards one gets the peculiar decaying  
quality so characteristic of the Yellow rump's song but at distances much  
beyond 50 yards the resemblance to the Prairie Warbler's song is at  
times perfect. Indeed when I first heard the bird from our house  
I set it down without hesitation as D. discolor.

Either this bird wanders widely or there are two or more that hug in the same form. Others have been perfectly normal bugs.

July 5. I have heard but few Yellow-rump songs this past few days. Apparently this will be the first of the Warblers here to cease singing.

1885

Sept. 10

Since my arrival (Aug. 13) there have been a few Yellow-rumps about, mostly young birds in first plumage. This morning (a clear, cold morning succeeding a heavy, easterly rain-storm yesterday) the woods over the entire Point for at least a mile inland are fairly alive with them. I must have seen over 100 in all. They were in full autumnal dress & evidently migrants which dropped in overnight. They were very restless, continually taking long flights and alighting mostly on the tops of the live spruces and on dead branches whence they were continually launching out and upward after

Birds of Upper St. John,  
Batchelder.

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by  
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

18. *Dendroica coronata* (Linn.) Gray. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.  
—It was common at Fort Fairfield. At Grand Falls it was rare during May. All had left before the 9th of June.

Oct. 10. Yellow-rumped Warbler,

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 109

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44.

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region  
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.  
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox, Jr.

*Dendroica*

49. *D. coronata*.

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887, p. 18

*Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—Rather common.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 118

#### Brief Notes.

Yellow Rump Warbler, April 12th, at Halifax; first arrival. H. Austen. O. & O. XIV, May, 1889, p. 77

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.  
A. H. Alberger.

655. Yellow-rumped Warbler. Common.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 88

Dwight, Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—Common. Their song reminded me of early spring days in lower latitudes. Their favorite haunts were clumps of spruces and firs in partly cleared land.

Auk X, Jan., 1893, p. 18

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monte, Can. Comeau & Merriam

14. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—A rather common summer resident. First seen May 29, 1882.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 234

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

50. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—Common summer resident, nesting in the latter part of June.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 148

mostly found in the recesses of  
 the old buildings. Some suggested they could  
 be seen in very small numbers throughout  
 the day. They were accompanied by  
 numerous Al. alba, which however  
 usually fed lower down in the trees  
 of the foliage, and which did not  
 exhibit flying activity. The young of the  
 species were the first to emerge, and  
 began their most rapid growth and flying  
 after the birds are about 10 days old. Some  
 were in full plumage today.

Birds of Upper St. John.  
 Batchelder.

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 dent, nesting in the latter part of June.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 148



**Sap Drinking Habits of Warblers.**<sup>1</sup>—So far as I can gather very little is known concerning the above matter, for in the nine or ten pages devoted to the food of these interesting little birds in the standard work on their life history, not a word is mentioned about it, and the only reference I know of will be found in the Biological Survey, Bulletin No. 39 'Woodpeckers in Relation to Trees and Wood Products' 1911, p. 98, wherein the author, Mr. W. L. McAtee, speaking of some defensive measures against sapsuckers recommends poisoning the sap, but adds the following warning note, viz.: "It should be noted here that hummingbirds and some other small birds, particularly warblers, will be killed by poison intended for sapsuckers." From this we may gather that the habit is not altogether unknown, but the majority of people, I think, are unaware of it, certainly I have been paying special attention to this family for the past few years, but have never noted it until the fall of last year (1916) and therefore think my experience may be worth recording. It was on September 19, that whilst passing close to an old silver birch tree on the borders of a large wood, a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) flew off one of the overhanging branches, which at the time naturally caused me no surprise, nor was I particularly interested, when returning some two hours later the same thing occurred again. However in the afternoon when covering the same ground the warbler again left the branch, as well as a Yellow-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) the trunk, I must admit my curiosity was aroused, and I decided to secrete myself and await results. It was not long before both birds returned to the tree, the sapsucker to some holes in the trunk, and the warbler to some on the upper side of the branch which I had not noticed. Here he regaled himself on the sap after the manner of his companion, and continued doing so for some considerable time, until I came out of hiding when both birds flew away. For the next two days I visited the spot on several occasions and every time the warbler was there, and usually the sapsucker as well but I never saw the former attempt to take the sap from the holes in the trunk, but only from those on the branch, where it was able to perch readily and drink at leisure, and no doubt eat any small flies or insects that may have got caught in the sap as well. The next case to come under my notice was that of an adult female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*) which on October 1 (the latest date as it so happens on which I have noticed it here) flew into the branches of a beach tree and commenced imbibing the sap from some old sapsucker holes. Whilst watching it I noticed another cluster of holes in the trunk, and it was not long before the bird on hovering wings after the manner of a hummingbird was abstracting the sap, and no doubt any insects from these also, thus differing in this respect from the Myrtle, which as already stated never once attempted the feat, although no doubt it was quite as competent to perform it as the other. It looks as though this habit may only be resorted to in the fall, when insects are scarce and late departing birds have some difficulty in making all ends meet.—H. MOUSLEY, *Halley, Que.*

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, May 21, 1917.

*Arch. Vol. XXIV. Oct. 1917. p. 484-485.*

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

74. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. — Rather common on the southern half of the coast.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 30.

*Birds of Toronto, Canada,*  
*by James H. Fleming.*

*Part II Land Birds.*

*Auk, XIV Jan., 1907, p. 83-84.*

248. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. — Regular migrant, April 29 to May 22, and September 11 to October 22; earliest spring record April 25, 1896 (J. Hughes Samuel). I have never found this warbler common in spring but it is always abundant in the fall.

EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE YELLOW-RUMP IN SOUTHERN MAINE.—This morning—March 21, 1882—I found a solitary Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) flitting about in a struggling growth of spruces, on Cape Elizabeth. His arrival is unprecedentedly early for this vicinity. The Yellow-rumps usually reach Portland in the last week of April, sometimes not until after May 1, and up to to-day I have never seen one before April 21, which was the date of their appearance in 1879. My little friend of this morning was probably only an accidental and temporary visitor. Snow still lies from two to three feet deep in the woods, and much blustering, wintry weather must be expected, before the earliest Warblers come to us in earnest.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Maine.  
Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 119.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler Wintering in Maine.—On January 1, 1885. I shot two Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) from a flock of six at Pine Point, Maine. On opening the crop of one, I found it filled with the seeds of the pitch pine. I believe this species has never before been taken in the winter season north of Massachusetts.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, Cambridge, Mass. Auk, 2, April, 1885, p. 216.

Scarboro, Maine

*Dendroica coronata*

The Yellow-rumped Warbler Wintering in Maine.—On January 1, 1885, I shot two Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) from a flock of six at Pine point, Maine. On opening the crop of one, I found it filled with the seeds of the pitch pine. I believe this species has never before been taken in the winter season north of Massachusetts.—JOSEPH L. GOODALE, Cambridge, Mass. (The Auk April, 1885)

### *Wintering of Yellow-Rumps in Maine.*

I think it is almost equally certain that the Yellow-rumped Warblers were also wintering at Pine Point, Maine, as they do regularly at Milton, Mass. (only about ninety miles south), where I have found them every winter for a number of years.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, Cambridge, Mass.

§ 9. Equally with the wintering of Swamp Sparrows in Massachusetts.

### *The Winter Distribution of the Yellow-rump.*

But when Mr. Chadbourne comes to speak of Yellow-rumps, he is, to say the least, forgetful of the laws which regulate the geographical distribution of birds. He believes it "almost equally certain that the Yellow-rumped Warblers were wintering at Pine Point, Maine," because "they do regularly at Milton, Mass., only about ninety miles south," and because they winter also at other points in Massachusetts. He gives no other reasons. It is hardly necessary to discuss the cogency of those which he does produce: they are not in the nature of evidence.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Maine. Auk, 3, Jan., 1886, p. 136-137.

\* Auk. Vol. 2, pp. 380-381.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

22. *Dendroica coronata*, (Yellow-rump Warbler). This well known species was found in all situations of the northern portion of the counties; seeming to be about evenly distributed in both forests and clearings. In a birch, at the lower end of Beaver Bog on Hack Inlet, was found a nest of this species. It was composed of fine grasses interwoven with a few feathers and flaxy shreds of some plant, with a lining of rabbit's hair and feathers compactly pressed into shape. It contained on June 7th four fresh eggs, white

with a perceptible bluish tint, marked about the larger end with flecks of dark brown. Measurements are as follows: .70x.51, .70x.50, .69x.51, .67x.49.

O. & O. XI. Sep. 1886. p. 129-130.

Winter Notes from Portland, Maine. — The exceptionally mild winter of 1888-89 was not without its effect on the birds about Portland. During the fall migration a great many of the Sparrows and Warblers prolonged their stay a week or ten days, or even longer, beyond their usual date. A noteworthy case was that *Dendroica coronata* which remained until December 6. There appears to be no previous December record of this species in Maine, though it has once been detected at Pine Point in January.\* J. C. Brown, Portland.

\* See Goodale, Auk, Vol. II, p. 16.

Auk, VI. July, 1889. p. 280-281.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Yellow-rumped Warbler, (*Dendroica coronata*). Not common. Secured a specimen, a male, in moulting plumage.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 25.

Fall Birds of Northern Maine.  
F. H. Carpenter.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). Several small flocks seen, evidently journeying south.

O. & O. XII. Nov. 1887 p. 188

Summer Birds at Boothbay, South-east  
Coast of Maine. J. L. Montgomery, Jr.

655. Myrtle Warbler. Commoner than the preceding species at Boothbay and elsewhere.

O. and O. IX. Nov. 1890. p. 162

**Myrtle Warblers Wintering in Maine.**—Several years ago there was some comment in 'The Auk' with reference to a claim that Myrtle Warblers had been found wintering in this State. Under title of 'The Yellow-rumped Warbler Wintering in Maine,' Dr. Joseph L. Goodale reported the capture of two of these birds from a flock of six at Pine Point, Me., Jan. 1, 1885 (Auk, Vol. II, p. 216). Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown later expressed a doubt that these Pine Point birds tarried in Maine throughout the season, implying that it was a time of unusually severe cold (Auk, Vol. II, p. 307).

I am now able to establish by reliable evidence the wintering in Maine the past winter of a flock of three to six Myrtle Warblers. The season, it should be remembered, was more severe than usual, the thermometer being near the zero mark morning after morning through January, when the birds were found. Jan. 10, 1904, I walked to Pond Cove, Cape Elizabeth, the snow being about two feet deep and the day severely cold. There I saw several birds flying about the trees near the road, but I did not at that time succeed in fully identifying them, the snow being deep and I was not suitably dressed for wading. Jan. 17, 1904, equipped for any depth of snow, I went to the same locality for the purpose of ascertaining if possible what the birds were. They were found in the same general locality and identified fully as Myrtle Warblers. I saw three at that time. They were living in the edge of evergreen woods and were found feeding on a weedy slope a hundred feet from the shore of Casco Bay. The principal growth here was the bayberry or wax myrtle, and the birds were observed feeding in these bushes. Jan. 24, 1904, I took with me to the place J. F. Fanning, Esq., and J. W. Leathers, Esq., of Portland, both members of the Maine Ornithological Society and both experienced observers. The identity of the Myrtle Warblers was fully confirmed by them. Three and perhaps four of the birds were seen at this time. Jan. 31, 1904, I took with me Mr. Leathers and Mr. Arthur H. Norton, of Westbrook, the latter the leading ornithologist of this locality, whose contributions to 'The Auk' are familiar to all its readers. The birds were again fully identified and it was made almost certain that there were four in the flock. Feb. 7, 1904, I again visited the place and found the birds still there, but could not count more than three. Feb. 14, 1904, in company with Mr. Fanning and Mr. Leathers, I saw one Myrtle Warbler at Cumberland, fully ten miles from Pond Cove. This one was near a large growth of wax myrtle bushes. I did not visit Pond Cove again until Feb. 28, 1904. At this time it was raining and no Myrtle Warblers were seen. March 6, 1904, I was again at Pond Cove but saw no warblers. March 13, 1904, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Leathers and I visited Pond Cove and found the Myrtle Warblers in the same place as on previous visits. This time six of them were seen in the air at the same time, as they flew up from the wax myrtle bushes at our approach, and were again identified beyond a doubt by all three of us.

Two Robins wintered in this same locality, being seen on four or five visits through January to March. A Song Sparrow was also seen here in January and one on March 13. All these birds apparently found plenty of food during the very cold weather and all thrived on the fare they secured from the sunny slope on which they spent the greater part of the time. *W. H. Brownson, Portland, Me., Auk, XXI, 7, 104, 288-390.*

**Myrtle Warbler at Cape Elizabeth, Maine, in January, 1905.**—In 'The Auk' for July, 1904, I gave data of the Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) wintering at Cape Elizabeth. During the past winter I watched the place closely to see if the birds would winter there again. A flock of six, at least, was seen there on Christmas day, 1904, but no more were observed until January 15, 1905, when two were seen in the same locality, about half a mile from where the birds lived in the winter of 1904-1905. January 29, two Myrtle Warblers were seen in the same field. After that the place was visited on several occasions, but not a warbler was seen during February. A Northern Shrike, however, made a stopping place there, and it may be that he had something to do with the absence of the warblers. April 16, one Myrtle Warbler was seen, in full breeding plumage, only two hundred yards from the locality, and I am inclined to think it was one which had wintered there, as not a single individual of the species had been seen in migration up to that date, and it was ten days or more before migrant Myrtle Warblers began to make their appearance.—*W. H. Brownson, Portland, Maine, Auk, XXI, Oct., 1905, p. 415.*

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,  
White Mts. A.P. Chadbourn

31. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—Is common through the country at the base of the mountain, and specimens were seen at an altitude of 4240 feet in Tuckerman's Ravine on July 6, 1886.

It seems about equally plenty from the base to the tree limit, but the few found on the low matted spruces higher up may have been only stragglers in search of food.

Auk, 4, April 1887. p.106

Birds Obsd. near Holderness, N.H.  
June 4-12, '86, and 4-11, '86, W. Faxon

50. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—Rare. One seen.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem  
N.H. July-August, 1874. J.A. Allen

38. *Dendroica coronata*. Occasionally seen.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.164

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21  
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

61. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—Common, especially at the higher levels.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.163

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.  
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

*Dendroica coronata*.—A few young seen Aug. 16.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p.77

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.  
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H. Allen

*Dendroica coronata*.—A few on Ossipee Mt.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p.78

*Dendroica coronata* in Southern New Hampshire in Summer.—On June 25, 1883, I shot an adult male of this bird in Hollis, N. H. It was in company with several broods of *D. virens*, etc. — WILLIAM H. FOX, Washington, D. C.

Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 192.

Shelburne, N. H.

*Dendroica coronata*

1884

July

Abundant, especially in white pine woods. The males sang more freely than any other Warbler except *D. virens*. I heard one sing once or twice on the 29<sup>th</sup> but most of them ceased a week earlier although they sang freely up to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Adult birds of both sexes were in perfect breeding plumage nearly to the close of the month. Indeed one shot the 29<sup>th</sup> had only just begun to moult. Young in first plumage were taken on July 9<sup>th</sup> at that date they were mostly in small family parties led by the old

Barry Point, N. H.

Barry Point, N. H.

1884

1885

June 11<sup>th</sup> N. H.

June 11<sup>th</sup> N. H.

Winn, B. Winnepesaukee, N. H.

1886

*Dendroica coronata*

June 15<sup>th</sup>

One singing in white pine woods on hill opposite Station. A Pine Warbler singing on same tree & place.

Notes from Taftsville, Vt. by L. C. Tracy.

Yellow-rump Warblers,  
(*Dendroica coronata*.) were also uncommonly abundant from Oct. 7th to 16th. [A little snow on the morning of the 16th, caused large numbers of them to seek shelter about the buildings.]

Q. & O. X, Jan. 1885. p. 10

Summit - Edsall Mountain.  
61. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. — Quite common in the stunted spruces at the summit, but not observed elsewhere.

See also p. 10.



Sharon, Mass.  
Dec. 1881  
1881

Mr. Herbert H. Job in a letter to Mr.  
Audubon dated Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1881, speaks of  
Dendroica coronata as still "abundant  
in Sharon". The particular locality that  
I spoke of to him. Mr. Job tells me  
that this Warbler abounds wintered at  
"Essex", Mass.

Dendroica coronata

Wintering in Mass.

Sharon, Mass.  
1881-82

From Dec., 1881, to Feb., 1882, Yellow rumps  
have been numerous at Sharon where  
they were also abundant during the  
previous winter (H. H. Job in epist. to N. A. P.)

Auk, XIV, July, 1897, p. 326.

Bird Notes from Massachusetts.

Dendroica coronata. — On the 29th of July, 1896, a single bird was seen  
in an orchard at Mt. Wachusett, Mass. It was engaged in catching flies  
and other insects, and several times uttered its characteristic *schuck* and  
*whceest*. The occurrence of this species at this date seems noteworthy as  
being several weeks earlier than the usual appearance of the bird in this  
region.

Glover M. Allen, Newton, Mass.

*Dendroica coronata*

Wintering in Mass.

Duxbury & Dedham, Mass.

December, 1882

January 2, 1883

Milton -

At Maynards to-day (Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>) I saw three Yellow-rumps in the flesh. Two of them were killed at Duxbury within the past week, the other was taken somewhere near Boston.

Spehman has a friend in Dedham who within two or three days reported them as abundant there.

On January 2, Roland Hayward & Arthur P. Chadbourn saw upwards of a hundred on and near the Hayward farm

Middlesex Co., Mass.

*Dendroica coronata*

1884

Aug. 23

Saw four and shot three; all were adults. The first an ad. ♂ was mouthing & changing into fall plumage; he was alone but two females shot later in the forenoon were in a mixed flock of Warblers & Titmice. All three were among red cedars, the first perhaps two hundred yards from the other two, the fourth I did not shoot. It was in yellow pines (with Chickadees) near the Watertown Arsenal. It was evidently an adult. One of the ♀ shot was partly

Wintering in Mass.

Duxbury & Dedham, Mass.  
December, 1882  
January 2, 1883  
Milton -

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Spehman has a friend in Dedham who within two or three days reported them as abundant there.

On January 2, Roland Hayward & Arthur P. Chadburn saw upwards of a hundred on and near the Hayward farm

in fact Mr. Chad had a Pink Tail just sprouting out. The other was in breeding dress, some badly & falling out. (Walden, Aug. 23). Saw a fine pair wintering in the cedar belt on the Collier farm. All were adult & in ragged, moulting condition.  
Sept. 1. Hunt the forenoon on the Collier farm but no success.  
" 2. In the same woods visited yesterday saw 4 or 5 light & light saw a young bird moulting & it nearly lost its feet due.  
" 6. Saw one in cedar (Walden)  
" 12. Hunt 2.

E. Mass. 1885.

*Dend. coronata* Feb. 21 (Washington) Oct. 23 - 5<sup>4</sup>  
Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1885  
*Dendroica coronata* " 15<sup>5</sup>

Mass. (Milton)

*Dendroica coronata*

1885 Absent this winter

Dec. 28 Chaboume visited the place where he found  
Yellow-rumps wintering & numerous two years  
ago but there were none there. This is not surprising  
for the underbrush has been cut away and the  
cedars mercilessly thinned.

Mass. (Concord)

*Dendroica coronata* ✓

1886

May 7 A flock of about forty on the Assabet River  
just above the Herculoids. They were nearly all  
males. They sang freely and loudly. They were  
very active and restless and moved rapidly  
through the woods occasionally taking long flights  
high above the trees. The song is most like  
that of *D. pinus* but it has a metallic quality  
very like that of *D. dominica*.  
These Warblers are expert Flycatchers. They flit  
the tail but do not wag it.

Mass. (Worcester Co.)

*Dendroica coronata*

1886 Breeding

June Wm S. Perry of Worcester tells me that  
he found a nest containing young  
nearly large enough to fly at Silver Lake  
in the town of Clinton.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 4<sup>6</sup> 5<sup>10</sup>

Nov. 9<sup>2</sup>

*Dend. coronata*

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

*Dendroica coronata*

Mt Watatic --- A single male singing in ~~the~~ pasture interspersed with young spruces at the western base of the mountain; another on the edge of spruce woods near the summit and <sup>a third</sup> ~~thereabout~~ in thickets of young spruces in the pastures on the east side of the mountain at the elevation of about 1000 feet. The latter bird had a mate which we saw on several occasions, when she acted as if she had a nest of young in the vicinity.

Mass. (near Concord). 1887

1887

May 8<sup>10</sup> - 11<sup>1</sup> - 13<sup>4</sup> - 17<sup>10</sup>

*Dendroica coronata*.  
Mass. (Wickenden) \*singing

1887

June 25<sup>12</sup> 26<sup>12</sup>

In white pine woods. Apparently rare. Bailey has found nest with 4 young this season.

*Dendroica coronata*

1888

APR 18<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup>

Oct. 23<sup>2</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27<sup>2</sup>

Nov. 2<sup>3</sup> 6<sup>3</sup>

*Dendroica coronata*

*Dendroica coronata*

Dec. 5, 1889. Marblehead Neck

Jan. 23, 1890. Arlington.

Feb. 27, " "

Mar. 5, " "

" 30 " "

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season  
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

*Dendroica*

63. " coronata.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.  
William Brewster.

*Dendroica coronata*.—Rather common but nowhere very numerous.  
Found chiefly in groves of white pines on high ground but also, to some  
extent, in the spruce swamps. Although we failed to find any nests there  
can be no doubt whatever that the birds seen were breeding.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 391

General Notes.

Summer Birds of Central Berkshire  
Country, Mass. ~~Francis H. Allen~~, ~~Ralph Hoffmann~~

21. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—One in Becket, two in  
Stockbridge, in white pine woods.

Auk XII, Jan. 1895 p. 89

Ponkapog, Mass.  
Dec. 18, 1893.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

We got the eggs home  
without any accident and the only  
thing I regret is that we were  
unable to see your Hawks eggs  
and the skins.

That Wild Pigeon was  
shot about Aug. 15, 1890.

I have taken a few notes lately  
that I think may interest you:

Dec. 9, I was walking on the ice in the  
Fowl Marshes and saw the fresh feathers  
and blood of a Virginia Rail which a  
<sup>or owl</sup> hawk had recently eaten. I think

ter about 25° F. running.

Frank Bolles,

Frank

Frank Bolles,

had to hurry away as we did.

Yours very truly,  
J. H. Bowles.

it was probably wounded and so could not leave.

Dec. 10, while driving, I saw these birds in a flock of Tree Sparrows and Chickadees that I am positive were Yellow-rumped Warblers, but, as they were a good way off and I had no gun, I can not be sure.

Today I went over to Ponkapog Pond and was surprised to see ten or a dozen Yellow-rumps in a large flock of Chickadees and Tree Sparrows.

To have no doubt on the subject, I shot one which I will send you if you wish. Is this not rather late for them?

Please give my regards to Mrs. Brewster and tell her that I am sorry we

ter about 25° F. during.

Frank Dolles,

Brewster

Frank Dolles,



Yellow rumped Warbler

Numbers in trees &  
bushes along the  
roadside at Essex  
Falls Jan. 10-92, in  
company with Tree  
Sparrows, Chickadees  
& House Sparrows.  
Uttered the usual  
alarm "chept". Time  
12.30 P.M. Thermome-  
ter about 25° F. during.

Frank Bolles,

Frank

Frank Bolles,

*Effect of the mild Winter of 1878 on  
Bird - Migration . . . John Murdoch.*

Mr. Townsend also saw as late as the first of January small flocks of the Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), in the woods, near the shore, at Magnolia, Mass. This bird has been known to linger as late as the early part of December on Cape Cod, but never so far north of the Cape.

These instances all point to the probability that many of our autumn visitors took advantage of the season to prolong their stay beyond their usual custom.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878, p. 76.

THE YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*) WINTERING IN SWAMPSCOTT, MASS. — During the last three years I have been in the habit of finding these birds in December. But this year I have quite frequently seen flocks of from five to forty birds flying about among the bushes and junipers. I have taken specimens this winter on December 14, 1878, February 1, and February 8, 1879. Their occurrence here this winter cannot be due to favorable weather, since the winter has been severe, and for at least three weeks before the last capture the ground was covered with snow. Cape Cod, as given in Mr. Allen's "List of the Birds of Massachusetts," is the most northern locality in which this bird has previously been known to winter, though most recent lists suggest the probability of the Yellow-rumps spending the winter with us. — J. A. JEFFRIES, Boston, Mass. Bull. N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p. 118.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.  
1885, Charles H. Andros.

Oct. 10: The Yellow-rumped

Warblers arrived in a body to day, over a hundred being seen in a short walk.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Dendroica coronata* (Linn.), Myrtle Warbler,  
Migrant, common. Often seen in winter.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 14.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 2

1888

*Yellow-rumped Warbler*

S. W. Denton.

May 8. Very abundant in birches near the  
road. shot several ♂♂.  
May 11. None seen this morning but perhaps  
owing to my hunting on high ground.

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire  
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

54. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. — Not rare in the black spruces on Graylock from about 2800 feet to summit. One with a quick ear for the song might count on finding three or four specimens during a day spent on the mountain. I believe the only other record of this bird in Massachusetts during the breeding period is Winchendon, Worcester County (Brewster, *Auk*, V, 391, Oct., 1888).

*Auk*, VI. April, 1889. p. 103

The flight of Yellow-rump Warblers passed  
here in February. W. P. Hadley, Arlington,  
Mass.

O. & O. Vol. 17, April 1892 p. 62

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

*Dendroica coronata*

1886

Long.

April 27 Listening to the singing of some Yellow-rumps at Concord to-day I was for the first time struck with the resemblance of their song to that of *D. dominica*. It unmistakably had the same musical quality although certainly very differently executed.

Nat. Wataatic, Mass.

*Dendroica coronata*

June 27, 1889.

The song of a ♂ observed on the mountain in pasture grass was about intermediate between that of *junco* & *D. pinus* more musical than the former, less so than the latter. It fell decidedly at the end whereas none of the *junco*'s songs heard to-day did this.

June 30. The song of another ♂ in grassy pasture at base of Mt. W. fell decidedly at the end.

*Dendroica coronata*.

Yellow-rumps.

Arlington, Mass.

There is a little flock of Yellow-rumps in precisely the same place in Arlington as in previous winters. This seems to me pretty good evidence that birds tend to regular, fixed winter, as well as summer, quarters.

Walter Faxon (letter December 4, 1891).

**Winter Birds in South-eastern Mass.**  
Harry G. White

13. *The Yellow-rumped Warbler*. This bird is a regular migrant and winter resident in eastern Massachusetts, sometimes being abundant at that season. Usually it is most numerous late in the fall and gradually becomes less plenty as the season advances, and is frequently wanting just previous to the commencement of the spring migration. It arrives from the North earlier in the season, in Bristol County than on Cape Cod, and also disperses earlier there, than to the eastward. The following table shows the numbers recorded monthly, from September to February, inclusive, at Taunton, Wood's Holl and Highland Light:

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Total.
Taunton,	51	546	x	19	23	x	639
Wood's Holl,	0	311	126	37	0	0	474
No. Truro,	0	338	13	1	56	67	475

From this data it would seem that the migration was well under way at Taunton some time before it was at all apparent at the two other stations, but the height of the season was very nearly the same at each, although the greatest number were seen at the first named station. After the main body of Warblers had passed, the numbers decreased through the months of November and December, to a minimum which may be considered to represent the number of birds which would remain as winter residents. This number of winter birds gradually wasted away on the Wood's Holl ground, and from experiences of former years, I mistrust that a similar reduction occurred at Taunton, although the absence of notes for February, leaves us uncertain of the real state of things. It will also be observed that when the minimum at Highland Light was reached in December, a decided change took place, and the numbers of Yellow-rumps rapidly and steadily increased through the remaining winter months.

O. & O. Vol. 17, June, 1892 p. 85

1893

*Dendroica coronata*

Warbler  
in  
winter, Mass.

Feb. 23. One shot in  
Warbler by A. P. Chubbuck

" 24 About 20 seen & 4 shot  
in winter by Chubbuck &  
C. R. Bond.

Winter brood C. R. Bond.

*Summer birds in winter.*

; Jan. 1st, '83, Yellow Rump

Warblers quite common among the cedars;

*Chas. H. Miff. Portland, Oreg.*  
O. & C. VIII, Apr. 1883, p. 32

Notes on Some Winter Residents of  
Hudson Valley. E. A. Mearns.

6. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. — The Yellow-rumps generally stay with us in autumn till November; a few remaining among the cedars, in sunny places, till the early part of the following month, after which all depart to a more genial climate farther south. But during the past winter (1877-78) they remained in considerable numbers throughout that section of the Hudson Valley known as the Highlands. Their food consists mainly of the berries of the red cedar. The following notes are extracted from my journal: "November 26, 1877. Still abundant, flying about uttering a loud *chip*, and feeding on the berries of the red cedar. December 19. Yellow-rumps still here; have been steadily abundant up to this time. January 8, 1878. Still present; weather intensely cold; ground covered with snow. January 18. Quite numerous. They are flying about in the orchards, and inhabit bushy places near the river, or among the cedars. They seem to be quite contented so long as the ground is bare; but after a long snow-storm they are seen flying restlessly about, seeking with great alacrity any bare spot of ground. Numbers were seen during the last storm about the woodpile, in company with *Parus atricapillus*. February 12. Very numerous among the cedars and all along the way; feeding on cedar berries, in company with the Robins; just beginning to acquire the summer plumage, as are also the Yellow-Birds (*Chrysomitris tristis*). This change, as in the Yellow-Birds, is confined, at this season, to a few feathers of the rump and crown. March 8. One small flock seen; still in winter plumage. March 18. Numerous at Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N. Y. April 3. Several seen. One that I shot was in the midst of the spring moult; the new feathers being those of the nuptial dress."

From the above notes it will be seen that the Yellow-rumps were steadily present in considerable numbers throughout the past winter. They were always gentle and familiar; uttered a sprightly *chip*, — the solitary expression of their various emotions, — and were very agreeable winter companions. Later in the spring they favor us with a very pleasant little song.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 36

Birds observed in Naval Hospital  
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H. Coues

28. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER. — Common.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886.  
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

April 20, *Dendroica coronata*, (655). Myrtle  
Warbler.

O. & O. XI, July. 1886. p. 109

Proc. Linnean Soc. of N. Y. 88-89

*Dendroica coronata* also feeds upon them<sup>x</sup> and last winter, when the berries were abundant, this species was seen by him throughout the whole season independent of the weather, while this year none were to be found, and on examining the locality frequented last year by the birds he noticed that the crop of berries was small and the berries themselves bad. From this he was led to infer that the past unusually wet season may have rotted the seeds of the weeds upon which winter birds largely feed, and that this would account for their scarcity now.

<sup>x</sup> Bay-berries

1889, p. 199.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

26. *Dendroica coronata* (Linn.) Gray. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.

—This is the commonest of the Warblers in the Adirondacks, and breeds plentifully throughout the region.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 227

Some Birds of Lewis Co, N. Y.,  
C. Hart Merriam

In the Eastern (Adirondack) region

*D. coronata*, is found breeding.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878. p. 53

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the  
Northern Adirondacks [Linton], New York [1901].  
April 30 to May 5.

Yellow-rumped Warbler. Tolerably common.

E. A. Starling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1892, p. 298.

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds, Ruthven D.ane,

<sup>albino</sup>  
D. *coronata* has been taken in partial state,

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 21

Dendroica coronata

Sequences of Plumages &c

J. Dwight, Jr., M.D.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, pp. 217-220.

See under Icteria virens.



## Nesting of the Yellow-rump Warbler.

BY WILLIAM L. KELLS, ONTARIO, CANADA.

This species, (*Dendroica coronata*), is but rarely observed in this section of the country, though owing to its peculiar habitat, and comparative silence, it may be more common than I am now aware. It is well known to every field ornithologist that each of the species of Warblers have their peculiar haunts, and but few of them intermingle in the same society, and when they meet they evince a jealous rivalry that soon causes each to understand that there can be no love between them, and that their ways are not in harmony. Sometimes, however, in a small circle, a number of species may be heard intermingling their joyous songs together. In the same thick underwood may be found the nests of the Redstart, (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and the Chestnut-sided Warbler, (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*), but that of the former is always more elevated than the

latter and generally deeper in the wood. So in the same swampy woodland the Yellow-rump and Bay-breasted Warblers, (*Dendroica castanea*), meet on common ground; but while the latter glean and warble high among the foliage, the former confine their haunts near to the ground, where they may meet in society the Black-and-White Creeper, (*Mniotilta varia*), and other members of the same family; and as with the birds themselves, so with their nesting places. I have seen but few nests of the Yellow-rump Warbler, and but one with eggs. On the 8th of June, 1882, I discovered, for the first time, the nest of this species. It was in a low black-ash timbered wood, where there was an intermingling of low balsam and cedars, and near where I had taken a nest of a Bay-breasted Warbler the season before, and of whose nest I was now in search, when I espied in a low balsam about four feet from the ground, a nest much like in material, form and position, that of a Chipping Sparrow, (*Spizella domestica*). The bird was seated on the nest, but flew off when I was within a few feet, and from a position near by anxiously watched my movements, at the same time moving uneasily and uttering a few "chip"-like notes. I also carefully noted her plumage, and became certain of her identity as a Yellow-rump Warbler. The nest contained four fresh eggs, which I took, and they have since been in my collection. It is composed of small stalks of dry weeds, rootlets and hair. The eggs are clear white, mottled on the large end with spots and blotches of light brown. In size, form and color they much resemble the eggs of the common Yellow Warbler, (*Dendroica aestiva*), while the nest can scarcely be distinguished from that of a Chipping Sparrow. I also saw near by an old nest of the previous year, but have since failed to find any nest in that place.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 103.

85. *Linnean Society. Ibid.*, XIV, p. 184.—Report of a meeting held March 6, 1880, containing abstracts of papers read, relating in part to birds, and including notes on the breeding habits of *Dendroica coronata*, *D. striata*, and *D. maculosa*, and of eccentricities in the nesting of *Sayornis fuscus*.

766. *Yellow Rump Warbler.* By A. Hall. *Ibid.*, p. 32.—Shot Jan. 13, 1883, in Northern Ohio. O. & O. Vol. VII

THE YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*) BREEDING IN EASTERN MARYLAND. — During the latter days of June, 1879, while temporarily stationed at Havre de Grace, Md., in the interests of the United States Fish Commission, I discovered a family of *Dendroica coronata* breeding. The locality was on the banks of the river, a short distance out of town, in a clump of low cedars. The female had apparently had the right humerus fractured, as the wing, when closed, instead of lying against the body, pointed upward. She could only make short flights at a time, and when pursued always made her way by flitting and hopping to the tops of the small trees before renewing her flight. I nearly caught her with my hand several times. It is very probable that it was on account of the crippled condition of the female that the birds had chosen so southern a locality for nidification. The male appeared to be all right, but acted rather indifferent regarding the fate of his family.

I saw three of the young about half grown, but I failed to catch them. I should never have supposed the young to have been *D. coronata*, had I not so unmistakably identified the parents. My visit to the locality was early in the morning, and, being without a gun, I returned to my hotel with the intention of revisiting the place and securing the interesting family in the evening; but before that time I received orders to go south, and could not again revisit the locality. The female was subsequently seen and identified, at the same spot, by a friend, under somewhat similar circumstances, he also failing to procure either the young or the parents.

—LUDWIG KUMLIEN. Bull. N. O. C. 5, July, 1880, p. 182-183

*Dendroica coronata* Feeding upon Oranges. — While at Enterprise, Florida, last February, I twice saw Yellow-rumped Warblers eating the pulp of sweet oranges. In the first instance the orange was one that had fallen from a cart into the street and had afterwards been crushed so that the pulp was exposed. The little bird tugged at it with all its strength and seemed to have much difficulty in separating pieces small enough to swallow. Some of these were fully an inch long and as large around as a lead pencil. In the second instance the orange had merely cracked open by falling from the tree to the ground beneath. During the entire month of February the orange groves in the vicinity of Enterprise were frequented by larger numbers of these Warblers than I found in other places, and I have little doubt that the fallen oranges formed the chief attraction. — WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.* **Auk**, VI. July, 1889. p. 279.

*Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.

I have seen Yellow-rumped Warblers eating oranges as mentioned by Mr. Brewster in 'The Auk' (July, 1889). When observed in the act they were feeding on fallen fruit that had been broken open, but, as they also frequented the trees, possibly they extracted pulp through holes made by the Red-bellied Woodpecker. From January 12 to February 8, 1888, this species was extremely abundant all over the region about Sanford. Hummock, bay, pine land, and flat woods swarmed with them, and they also frequented the town, and even entered houses.

range Co, Fla. D. Mortimer, **Auk**, VII, Oct, 1889, p. 343

The Yellow Rump Warbler, nearly always a common winter resident, feeds on a number of different seeds, and eats barberries and birch buds quite extensively. *Brewster*  
*to White*  
*Nov 17 Oct 1892*  
*P/48-51*

YELLOW RUMP WARBLER. On the 15th of May last, I winged a Yellow-rump Warbler (*Dendroica coronata* L.) and, as it was very slightly wounded, I put it in a cage, in order to try whether it would live in captivity. As soon as it got used to the cage, it seemed quite contented, hopping incessantly from perch to perch, and uttering at the same time a harsh, monotonous "tweet." I offered it every kind of food, but the only things it would eat were hard boiled eggs and cooked beef, chopped up fine, of both of which, especially the yolk of the eggs, it was very fond. It also ate a little canary seed, but it did not seem to like it, and swallowed it shell and all. It lived in this way—seemingly in perfect health, and with its wing healing fast—for two weeks, when one morning I observed it sitting on its perch looking dull and stupid, and every now and then giving a spasmodic shiver. I took it out of the cage and held it near a fire for some minutes, when it seemed completely restored. That evening, however, I noticed it put its head under its wing much earlier than usual, and the next morning I found it on the bottom of its cage, dead. — W. L. Scott, *Ottawa, Canada*.

Winter Food of Birds in the South.  
O.S. Brimley, Raleigh, N. O.

Yellowrumps. (*Dendroica coronata*). Poison oak berries up to about December, Poplar seeds in January and weed seeds a little later, seemed to form its staple diet this year, though it seems quite fond of insects and even in the depth of winter manages to do some flycatching.

O. & O. XII. July 1887 p. 105

YELLOW RUMP WARBLER.—Shot, Jan. 12, 1883, a specimen of "*D. coronata*" in orchard. Thermometer at zero, ground covered with snow. On examination I found the bird to be fat and healthy. Crop and stomach contained berries from the Red Cedar. Have been a close observer of birds for the last ten years and I think this is the first record of its occurrence in Winter in Northern Ohio.—A. Hall, *E. Rockport*.

O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883. p. 31

O. & O. IX. Jan. 1884. p. 5.

1889

Eating orange pulp.

*Dendroica coronata*

Feb. 9

Enterprise, Fla.

In the street of this town I to-day saw  
a Yellow-rump eating the pulp of a sweet orange  
that had been crushed by a cart wheel. It  
tugged at it with all its strength and when  
it had succeeded in separating a piece swallowed  
it eagerly. Some of the pieces which it secured  
were an inch long and as large around as  
a pencil giving the little bird some trouble  
to swallow.

A Yellow-rump eating pulp of orange on ground in  
orchard Feb. 9. It ate from the



AUDUBON'S WARBLER IN MASSACHUSETTS. — While collecting in the neighborhood of Cambridge, Mass., November 15, 1876, I was fortunate enough to obtain a fine specimen of Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*). It was a male, and the yellow of the throat was very plainly marked. Dr. Coues, in his "Birds of the Northwest," gives Laramie Peak as about the eastern limit of this species. Its occurrence here must, of course, be regarded as entirely accidental. — A. M. FRAZAR.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 27.

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General Notes.

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Connecticut Notes. — On May 6, 1893, while collecting in a small patch of woods on the outskirts of this city I shot an Audubon's Warbler from a flock of Yellow-rumps. The bird is a male in very high plumage, the yellow throat being conspicuous and the chest pure black. On May 8 I again visited the woods, and after shooting several Yellow-rumps, I procured another Audubon's, this time a female in dull plumage but with the throat very plainly yellow.

On the same day I procured an adult male Lawrence's Warbler, and on May 22 an adult male Brewster's Warbler.

May 31 I noticed a Lawrence's Warbler which I thought was breeding. On June 5 I again noticed the bird and shot it, and, after hunting some time, I finally flushed the female from her nest which, unfortunately, contained six young birds. I had a very good chance to examine her as she was constantly within six or eight feet from me. The nest was in all respects precisely like that of the Blue-winged Warbler. The young birds were well feathered out, and several of them showed traces of black on the throat. — A. H. VERRILL, New Haven, Conn.

<sup>1</sup>The really unfortunate part of the affair seems to have been not that the writer was disappointed in his hopes of a set of eggs, but that he failed to capture and rear the young and to secure the female, — that he threw away a rare opportunity of casting much light on the status of this doubtful species. — EDS.

Auk X, July, 1893 p. 305.

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds. Ruthven D. A. S.

Mr. Charles E. Aiken of Colorado Springs has kindly presented me with a specimen of Audubon's Warbler which he collected at Camp Apache, Arizona, September 23, 1876, with albinism represented by a distinct white ring around the neck; the feathers being only tipped with white. Under date of the 25th of July, 1878, Mr. Charles A. Allen of Nicasio, Cal., writes me: "I had a fine specimen of Audubon's Warbler that I shot in the Sierras this spring. It was a male, and had a white collar extending around the back of the neck and on each side of the neck and shoulders, meeting in a large white patch on each side; otherwise the bird was in its ordinary plumage." It is a little odd that two specimens of the species should have been taken showing the freaks of albinism in such a similar way.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 28

*Oological Notes from Montana:*  
*Dr. J. C. Merrill, U. S. A.*

*Dendroica auduboni* (Towns.) Baird.—Breeding rather abundantly in the Big Horn Mountains but only one nest was found. Several descriptions of the eggs of the Western Yellow-rump have recently appeared, and its breeding habits are now fairly well known. My nest was found on the 17th of June in a young pine tree growing on the top of a ridge at the edge of a deep cañon, at an elevation of 6,500 feet. It was about seven feet from the ground and placed against the main trunk, supported by and partly saddled upon two twigs. It is large for the size of the bird, measuring 4X4 inches: internally 1½X1½. Externally it is composed of many small twigs and fine strips of bark; within this is a thick wall of well matted strips of a weed and of bark and pine needles. The inner lining consists of fine fibrous roots and hairs, with a feather or two. The most curious feature of the nest is a circle of feathers of Richardson's Grouse attached to the rim for nearly the entire circumference, a small bare space being left which was apparently used by the bird on entering. These feathers are fastened to the rim by the larger ends and are directed upwards and inwards forming a sort of canopy which completely hid the female while sitting. The appearance is very peculiar and quite unlike anything I have seen, for this use of the feathers is evidently intentional and is very different from what is seen in nests with a lining of loose feathers in which the bird sinks nearly out of sight. One egg was broken; the other four, far advanced in incubation, average .68X.53. The ground color is a decidedly greenish-white, sparingly marked over the entire surface with small spots and dots of black, brown, and lavender, the latter predominating, and form an irregular wreath around the larger end.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct, 1881, p. 205.

*Birds at Twin Lakes, Col. W. D. Scott*

12. *Dendroica auduboni*. AUDUBON'S WARBLER. — Not very common. Two females, taken the 15th of June, showed signs of incubating, and the plumage was much worn. On the 25th of June I took a nest containing four eggs nearly ready to hatch. The nest is a rather bulky structure, composed of twigs of sage-brush and fine grass, and is lined with soft hair and large feathers. In general shape it is flat and rather shallow, as the following dimensions show: Diameter outside, four inches; diameter inside, three inches; depth, two and a half inches outside and two inches inside. It was situated on the outer twigs of a large pine-tree, five feet from the ground. It contains four eggs, of a light greenish tint, with a circle of dark brown spots at the larger end. They are quite sharply pointed, and of the following dimensions: .76 x .55, .72 x .58. I give the dimensions of only two, as the others were too badly broken to yield accurate measurements. The nest was not fastened in any crotch, but simply laid on a bunch of pine leaves, and was sheltered by another bunch directly above it. On the 29th of June I found a second nest containing four young a day or two old. This one was situated in the topmost branches of a small fir-tree, about twenty-five feet from the ground. The nest is essentially the same in structure as the one above described. On July 9 I took young which had just left the nest.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, April, 1879, p. 22

## Nesting of Audubon's Warbler.

BY WM. G. SMITH, LOVELAND, COLORADO.

On July 1st I discovered the nest and four eggs of Audubon's Warbler, (*Dendroica auduboni*) in Estes Park, Larimer County. It is at about 8000 feet elevation. I have never seen any record of its breeding so far south, so I thought it would interest some of the readers of the O. & O. to give a brief description of it.

The nest was placed in a water birch tree near the river, about eight feet from ground, and was composed of grass and small stems of sage brush, well lined with horse hair and feathers of the domestic fowl. Outside diameter of nest about four inches, inside one and one-third inches, and one and one-half inches deep. The eggs measure on an average 18-32 x 23-32 inches, and the ground color is light

blue, dotted thickly around near the middle, but a little toward the larger end, with dark brown and purple spots and dashes. The whole of the remainder is covered sparingly with small spots of same color. The eggs were quite fresh. The female was quite reluctant to leave the nest, so I went to camp which was but a few yards away and got my gun and when I returned she had again taken possession. I then reluctantly shot her to leave no doubts as to the identification of the eggs.

O. & O. XIII, Aug. 1888 p. 114-115